

CAUSES AND EFFECT OF CONFLICT BETWEEN CATTLE HERDERS AND CROP FARMERS IN GIREI, ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

Yahya, M. M. & Muhammad Auwal Ahmed

Department of Animal Science and Range Management, Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola.

Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola

Email: Muktarmaqaji29@gmail.com

Phone: 08035016337

ABSTRACT

Crop farmers and cattle herders conflict have remained the most prevailing resource-use conflict in Girei Local Government Area of Adamawa State. Social and economic factors confined to inflame violent conflicts. The competition between these two Agricultural land user-groups threatens the means of survival in the study area. The study describes socio-economic characteristics of the farmers and herders and determines the causes of conflict in the study area. Primary data were collected by the use structured questionnaire. The data were subjected to simple percentages and chi-square analysis. The study revealed that the major causes of conflict in the study area are the crop damage by cattle, and lawlessness in the society. The findings also revealed that loss of expected yield, loss of cattle and loss of human lives and properties are the major effects of conflict. The study also concludes that the conflicts sometimes spread and lead to ethnic clashes and armed robbery. Therefore it is the interest of the state to address the genuine needs of herders and crop farmers since these two provides employment for almost all the rural people. It is recommended that strange faces identified should be reported and leaders should preach the implications of conflict in the society.

Key Words: Farmers, Herders, Lawlessness, Conflict and Clashes.

INTRODUCTION

One major problem confronting world peace today is the manifestation of conflict in different dimensions across the globe. From Europe to America, Africa to Asia conflicts is common (Jeong, 2008). Conflicts have been defined in different ways by different scholars. Ekong (2003) defined conflict as the form of social interaction in which the actors seek to obtained scarce reward by eliminating or weakening their contenders. Nigeria has experienced and still experiencing conflicts on grave proportions among several ethnic and religious communities. These conflicts vary in dimension, process and groups involved. It was observed by Momale (2003) that while some conflicts arise between same resources user groups, others occur between different user groups such as herders and farmers. Adisa (2012) observed that the farmer-herders conflict has remained the most preponderant resources-use conflict in Nigeria. Social and economic factors continue to provide violent conflicts among the Fulani pastoralist and crop farmers. The intensity and variation of the conflict largely depend on the nature and type of the user groups where the pastoralists grazes. The conflicts over access right to farmland and cattle routes have become ubiquitous and seems to have defied solutions (Abbas, 2009). However, coser (2000) have noted that, the inevitability of conflict in the claim for scarce resources is considered as the bane for struggles over the inestimable value for land and its resource, with the claim for ownership and the claim for its position as a common resource. Historical tension between pastoralist and settled indigenous farmers have intensified in recent years with dwindling natural resources and land availability greatly contributing to the on-going, escalating conflict in the country (Okello *et al.*, 2014). The herder-farmer conflict is now very rampant that almost every settlement that contains both herders and farmers are facing. This study tends to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, examine the factors responsible for the conflict and determine the major effects of conflicts in the study area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Girei which is one of the 21 Local Government Areas of Adamawa State, and is the headquarter of the local government. It is an agrarian area well suited for rain fed and irrigation due to the presence of the river Benue in the area. Farming is the main occupation of the people with emphasis on the cultivation of cereals and on irrigated lands, vegetable crops like

tomatoes, pepper, onion, carrots and cabbage are grown. Some of the farmers are involved in livestock keeping, but Fulani herdsmen dominate the rearing of livestock in the area. It is located in the central area of Adamawa State. It is located on latitude 9° 14'N and longitude 12° 28'E and occupies a land of 8,068km² with an altitude of about 185.9m above sea level and possesses two distinct seasons which are rainy and dry seasons (Adebayo & Tukur, 1999).

SAMPLING PROCEDURE AND SAMPLING SIZE

A multi stage sampling procedure was used for the study. In the first stage, 3 villages were sampled from a population of 15 villages that made the study area. The purposive selection was made because the sampled area consists of the villages where crop cultivation and cattle rearing were most common and the areas where crop farmers and cattle herders' conflict occur frequently. The selected villages for the study were Kola, Labondo and Gereng. A total of 5 crop farmers and 5 cattle herders from each of the 3 villages in the local government area were chosen randomly, thus giving a total of 15 crop farmers and 15 cattle herders.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

Primary data was collected for the study. The data was obtained through field survey using structured questionnaire. A total of 30 questionnaires were administered throughout the selected three (3) selected villages.

ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES

The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics, specifically frequencies and percentages while chi-square analysis was also used to achieve the objectives.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents as presented in Table 1 shows that majority (96.21%) of the respondents were males while 3.79% were females, most (89.66%) of the respondents are married while only 10.34% were single. The study also revealed that most (62.07%) were between the ages of 30-40 years, 21.17% are above 40 years while only 13.79% are below 30 years, 58.62% of the respondents have 6-10 children, 20.69% have 11-15 children while only 6.90% have more than 15 children. The study also revealed that 41.38% are crop farmers, 34.48% are cattle rearers and 24.14% are those that combine crop farming and cattle rearing. Respondents' level of education shows that 51.73% attended only Quranic schools, 34.48% are primary certificate holders, 13.79% are secondary school certificate holders while none studied beyond secondary school. The result also shows that 17.24% of the respondents are Hausa, 13.79% are others who are mostly Sullubawa (cattle herders) and few Kanuri farmers and majority (68.97%) are Fulanis. This report is close to the findings of Akinola and Ironkwe (2012) who reported 63.8% males and 36.2% females, 53.7% are of ages between 41-50 years, 25.43% and 31.3% of the respondents had Primary, Secondary and Tertiary certificates among poultry farmers in Rivers State respectively. Socio-economic features of ruminant animals marketers in Alaba-Rago market in Lagos shows that 83.93% are males, 64.29% married, 16.07% widows, 53.57% are within the ages of 31-49 years while 47.32% had Primary certificate, 33.04%, 10.71, 7.14 and 1.79 had SSCE/O/L, OND/NCE, B. Sc/HND and M.Sc. respectively, Lamidi *et al.* (2012). The study revealed that the major causes of conflict in the study area were majorly crop damage by cattle and lawlessness in the society and that loss of crops, loss of animals and sometimes loss of lives as a result of conflict as the major effects of conflict in the study area.

Table 1 Socio-Economic characteristics of the respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage(%)	Variable	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Gender			Educational Level		
Male	25	86.21	Quranic	15	51.73
Female	4	13.79	Primary School	10	34.48
			Secondary School	4	13.79
			Tertiary Institution	0	0.00
Marital status			Age		
Married	26	89.66	20-29	4	13.79
Single	3	10.34	30-39	18	62.07
			40 and above	7	24.14
Household size			Occupation		
>5	4	13.79	Farming	12	51.38
6-10	17	58.62	Cattle Rearing	10	34.48
11-15	6	20.69	Both	7	24.14
16 and above	2	6.90			
Ethnic Group					
Hausa	5	17.24			
Fulani	20	68.97			
Others	4	13.79			

REFERENCES

- Abbas, I. M. (2009). No Retreat No Surrender conflict for survival between Fulani cattle Herders and Farmers in Northern Nigeria. *European Scientific Journal* **8** (1) 331-349.
- Adisa, R. S. (2012). Land use conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen-implications for Agricultural and Rural Development. Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria.
- Adebayo, A. A. and A. L. Tukur (1999). Adamawa State in Maps Paraclete publications, Yola
- Akinola, L. A. F. and Ironkwe M. O. (2012). An Assessment of the Awareness level of occupational and Environmental Hazards among poultry farmers in Rivers State, Nigeria. Proceedings of 17th Annual conference of ASAN/NIAS, Abuja.
- Coser, L. A. (2000). Continuities in the study of social conflict. London. MacMillan Publishers.
- Ekong, E. E. (2003). An Introduction to Rural Sociology. 2nd Edition. Dove of Educational publishers, Uyo, Nigeria.
- Jeong, H. (2008). Understanding conflict and conflict Analysis. London: Sage Publication..
- Lamidi, A. A. , Ashorun, W. O. and Aregbosola, A. O. (2012). Economics of Ruminant Animal marketing in Lagos Metropolis: a case study of Alaba-Market. Proceedings of 17th Annual conference of ASAN/NIAS, Abuja.
- Momale, S. B. (2003). Resource use Conflict in Agricultural and Pastoral area in Nigeria. In Gefu, J.. O. (Ed). Land Tenure system in Nigeria.
- Okello, A. L., Majekodunmi, A. O., Malala, A., Welburn, S. C. and Smith, J. (2014). Identifying motivators for state Pastoralist Dialogue.