



## DETERMINANTS OF INSTITUTIONAL CONFLICTS RESOLUTION ACHIEVEMENT AMONG CROP FARMERS IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACTS

This study investigated with the determinants of institutional involvements in conflicts resolution in Oyo state. Multistage sampling procedure was used to select 120 farmers. Variables measured were farmers' enterprise characteristics, institutional involvement, conflicts resolution strategies employed, constraints to conflicts resolution and extent of conflicts resolution achievement. Data were collected using interview schedule and analysed with the use of descriptive and inferential (PPMC and linear regression) statistics. Results revealed that 44.2% of the respondents were large scale farmers with 28.0 mean years of farming experience. Institutions mostly involved in conflicts resolution were traditional rulers (weighted score=262.7), crop farmer groups (192.3) and local government committee (188.4). Strategies mostly employed for conflicts resolution were prayer for peace (284.8), appeased the other parties involved (266.6) and educating farmers on their interdependence with the herdsmen (265). Language barrier (291.7), lack of funds for farmers' association to intervene (291.7), hostility (289.8) were the mostly identified constraints to conflicts resolution achievement. More (56.7%) respondents held that there was low level of conflict resolution achievement. Significant relationship existed between conflict resolution achievement and institutional involvement ( $r = 0.98$ ) as well as conflicts resolution strategy employed ( $r = 0.73$ ). Factors associated with conflicts resolution achievement were resolution strategy ( $\beta = 0.11$ ) and institutional involvement ( $\beta = 0.90$ ). Therefore, effective involvement of institutions in conflicts resolution is highly recommended to resolving disputes and ameliorating the different interests of the farmers and herdsmen.

**Keywords:** Conflicts resolution, traditional rulers, institutions, police force, resolution strategy, herdsmen

### INTRODUCTION

Conflict can be described as all forms of opposition, disagreement or friction between two or more parties and it manifests in the forms of arguments, protests, demonstration, aggression and other destructive behaviours. While conflict occurrence has been observed to be inevitable and ubiquitous in human organisations, the strategies for managing it have remained topical issues and matters of concern to individuals, groups and scholars (International Crisis Group 2009). Efficient and effective management of conflicts is fundamental to the development of any society, but the prevailing situations in Nigeria constitute a reversal of this reality.

The Nigerian success story of amalgamation of diverse groups in 1914 has radically shifted from a platform for peaceful coexistence to an arena of violence and gradual disintegration. The popular explanations for this unexpected situation include colonialism, corruption and political instability. The matrix of social inequality and the state's attempts to undermine the power of traditional social control systems are also potent factors, but there is inadequate research on this subject matter. The spate of insecurity and threats to lives and properties in Nigeria has reached alarming proportions despite the increasing visibility of the Nigerian state mobile police and military in the management of internal conflicts (The US Department of State 2008; Erinosh 2007; Falola 1998). About 50 episodes of violent conflict, which

culminated in the death of over 10 000 persons and internal displacement of over 300 000 people, were recorded in Nigeria between 1999 and 2003 (International Crisis Group 2009). The recent (28–29 November 2008) violent conflict in Jos (a city in the north-central) resulted in the death of over 380 persons and destruction of properties worth millions of naira (Balogun 2009; Eya 2009; USAID 2005).

To respond to the day to day conflicts between crop farmers and nomadic herdsmen in Nigeria, some institutions have been identified to prevent its exacerbation. Those institutions include: traditional rulers, police force, law court, state security services, civil defence corps, local government committee, state government committee, crop farmers groups and veterinary practitioners. Literatures have shown that traditional rulers and crop farmers groups are the most effective so far as conflict between crop farmers and nomadic herdsmen is concerned (Umar, 2015 and Williams, 1998).

Several authorities have established the fact that conflicts between crop farmers and Nomadic Fulani are as a result of growing pressure on natural resources and a stiff competition for available resources such as land and water (Ingawa, Ega and Erhabor, 1999; Breusers, Suzanne and van Rheenen, 1998; Adebayo, 1997). For instance, some states such as Kwara, Jigawa, Ekiti, Ogun, Delta and Oyo state just to mention a few, have experienced conflict between crop farmers and nomadic Fulani which resulted in reduction in



output and income of farmers/nomads, displacement of farmers, erosion, loss of lives, gun running, loss of houses and properties, loss of produce in storage and so on. Furthermore, Farmer-herder conflicts are known to constitute threat to peace and national stability. Such conflicts affect crop production and availability of beef for consumption. The foregoing established the effects of the competition for the scarce resources between the crop farmers and the Nomadic Fulani herdsmen. The management of such conflicts needed to be researched into so as to serve as a guide to the all stakeholders involved in advisory roles to the agriculture and community development in the country. Therefore, there is need to fill the existing gap of identifying both formal and informal institutional conflicts resolution achievement in the study area. It is against this backdrop that this study was set to identify those factors that determine the achievements of institutions in conflicts resolution in Oyo state, Nigeria.

The specific objectives were to:

1. identify the crop farmers' enterprise characteristics
2. determine the level of involvement of institutions in conflicts resolution between pastoralist and crop farmers.
3. examine conflicts resolution strategies employed by the institutions involved.
4. ascertain constraints to institutional conflicts resolution achievement.
5. determine the level of institutional achievement in conflicts resolution.
6. assess factors limiting institutional conflicts resolution achievement

Hypotheses of the study, stated in null form, are as given below;

H<sub>0</sub>1: There is no significant relationship between institutions' involvement in conflicts resolution and institutional achievement of conflicts resolution.

H<sub>0</sub>2: There is no significant relationship between conflicts resolution strategies employed by the institutions and institutional achievement of conflicts resolution.

H<sub>0</sub>3: There is no significant relationship between constraints to institutional achievement and institutional achievement of conflicts resolution.

## METHODOLOGY

Study was carried out among crop farmers in Oyo state, Nigeria. A multistage sampling procedure was used to select respondents for this study. The first stage involved the use of purposive sampling procedure to select Saki west, Oyo west and Iseyin/Itesiwaju local governments within the Oyo Agricultural zone of Oyo state, using the ADP

structure. The purposive selection is based on the fact that there are more report of farmer-herder conflict in Oyo State, the selected agricultural zone is more prone to farmers/ pastoralist conflicts among other zones within the state, this according to Adebayo and Olaniyi, (2008); Adelokun, Adurogbangba and Akinbile, (2015). The second stage involved the use of simple random sampling procedure to select fifteen percent of blocks in each of the selected zones to have three blocks in all. Then from the three selected blocks, 50% of the cells within Saki, Oyo west and Iseyin/Itesiwaju local government areas to amount to 8, 5 and 6 cells respectively. There were 535 registered farmers in the three selected cells from Saki (250), Oyo west (159) and Iseyin/Itesiwaju (126) local government areas. At the last stage, a proportionate to sample size sampling procedure was used to select 20%, registered farmers from Saki (50) and 25% each from Oyo west (39) and Iseyin/Itesiwaju (31) local government areas. In all 120 registered crop farmers were interviewed using an interview schedule.

Data were collected on enterprise characteristic of respondents, conflicts resolution strategies employed, institutional involvement in conflicts resolution, constraints to conflicts resolution and extent of conflicts resolution achievement. They were analysed with both descriptive and inferential (Pearson Product Moment Correlation and Linear Regression) statistics.

Extent of conflicts resolution achievement by institutions was measured by compiling a list of institutions involved in conflicts resolution such as traditional rulers, crop farmers' group, local government committee and police force among others. Then respondents were provided with the response options of "to a large extent", "to a lesser extent" and "not all" to indicate to what extent the institution involved achieved in terms of resolving conflicts. The response options were scored 2, 1 and 0 respectively with a maximum score of 18. Thereafter, resolution achievement index was generated and with the mean the scores were categorised into high and low. Crop farmers' enterprise characteristics such as crop grown, animals reared, farm size, stock size, sources of labour, sources of finance and years of farming experience were measured at nominal, ordinal and interval level of measurement as the situation demanded.

Conflicts resolution strategies employed by respondents were measured by providing them with a list of conflicts resolution strategies like prayed for peace, appeased the other party, educating farmers on their interdependence with the herdsmen and punishment of offender among others. Response options of "a large extent", "to a



lesser extent” and “not all” were provided for the respondents in order to indicate to what extent each of those strategies employed worked. A score of 2 was assigned to “a large extent”, 1 was assigned to “to a lesser extent” and 0 was assigned to “not all”. After which, an index was generated and using mean as the bench mark scores were categorised as low and high level of use of conflict resolution strategies. Institutional involvement in conflicts resolution was measured by asking farmers to choose from a response options “a large extent”, “to a lesser extent” and “not all” to indicate to what extent various institutions listed such as traditional rulers, crop farmers’ group, local government committee and police force among others, have been involved in resolving conflicts. The response options were scored 2, 1 and 0 respectively, thereafter, institutional involvement index was generated and with the mean the scores were categorised into high and low level of involvement.

Similarly to measure constraints to involvement, a list of constraints that could affect conflicts resolutions were generated such as language barrier, lack of funds for farmers’ association to intervene, hostility and so on. Then respondents were asked to choose from response options of “to a large extent”, “to a lesser extent” and “not all” so as to indicate to what extent each of those items affected the institutions involved. A score of 2 was assigned to “a large extent”, 1 was assigned to “to a lesser extent” and 0 was assigned to “not all”. Then, the scores were categorised to mild and severe using mean as the bench mark.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On crop farmers’ enterprise characteristics, Table 1 shows a multiple response of the respondents as 91.7% of them cultivated

maize and cassava respectively, 76.7% cultivated yam, and 67.5% cultivated vegetable. In addition, 59.2% of the respondents raised poultry, 43.3% reared goat while just a few (2.5%) reared rabbit. Majority of the farmers (44.2%) had 5.1-22 hectares of farm size while, 15.8% had 0.1 – 2 hectares. This implies that a higher proportion of the farmers were large scale farmer as they cultivated more than 5 hectares of land in line with Okuneye *et al*, (2001) that the average farm size in arable crop production was 4.58 ha. Furthermore, among farmers that are into animal rearing, 37.5% of them had a stock size of 1 – 100 while 1.7% had 600 – 1000 stock size. The livestock farmers can be considered as small scale livestock farmers because they reared less than a hundred ruminant animals. On sources of labour, 49.2% of the respondents relied on both family and hired labour, 29.2% indicated hired labour and 21.7% indicated family labour. Meanwhile, on sources of finance, multiple responses on Table 1 reveal that 85.8% of the respondents indicated personal contribution, 35.0% indicated loan from cooperative and bank while, 21.7% indicated loan from family and friends as their source of finance. The implication is that farmers get money mostly from personal contribution rather than from formal institutions such as cooperative and banks probably because of lack of collateral and high interest rate associated with bank loans. Finally, 34.8% of the respondents had 36-55 years of farming experience, 33.3% indicated 21 – 35 years while 31.6% indicated 5 – 20 years farming experience. The inference is that crop farmers have a large years of farming experience and it is expected that they used their wealth of experience in managing the farmer-herder conflict in the study area.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents by their enterprise characteristics**

Variables	Frequency	Percent	Mean
<b>Crops grown:</b>			
Maize	110	91.7	
Cassava	110	91.7	
Yam and cocoyam	99	82.5	
Vegetable	81	67.5	
Cowpea	58	48.3	
Banana/Plantain	59	49.2	
Sorghum	51	42.5	
Fruit (Mango, Cashew, Pineapple and water melon)	71	59.2	
<b>Animals reared:</b>			
Goat	52	43.3	
Pig	7	5.8	
Poultry	71	59.2	
Rabbit	3	2.5	
<b>Farm size in hectare:</b>			
0.1-2	19	15.8	



Variables	Frequency	Percent	Mean
2.1-5	48	40.0	
5.1-22	53	44.2	12.6
<b>Stock size:</b>			
None	70	58.3	
1- 100	45	37.5	
100-500	3	2.4	29.8
600-1000	2	1.7	
<b>Sources of labour</b>			
Family	26	21.7	
Hire	35	29.2	
Both	59	49.2	
<b>Sources of finance:</b>			
Personal contribution	103	85.8	
Loan from family and friends	26	21.7	
Loan from cooperative and bank	41	35.0	
<b>Years of experience</b>			
5-20	38	31.6	
21-35	40	33.3	28.2
36-55	42	34.8	

Table 2 reveals that among the list of conflicts resolution strategies identified by the respondents, prayed for peace was ranked first with a weighted score of 284.8 followed by appeased the

other party (266.6), educating farmers on their interdependence with the herdsmen (265), sought help from relations (264.2) and formation of local community farmers association (259.8).

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents on the basis of conflicts resolution strategies employed by the institutions**

Resolution strategies	To a large extent	To a lesser extent	Not at all	Weighted score
Prayed for peace	85.8	13.3	0.8	284.8
Appeased the other party	73.3	20.0	6.7	266.6
Educating farmers on their interdependence with the herdsmen	67.5	30.0	2.5	265.0
Sought help from relations	71.7	20.8	7.5	264.2
Formation of local community farmers association	63.3	33.3	3.3	259.8
Sought help from local leaders	37.5	55.0	7.5	230.0
Sought help from local government	32.5	14.2	53.3	179.2
Punishment of offender	31.7	8.3	60.0	171.7
Compensation of affected farmers by the farmers' association	30.0	6.7	63.3	166.7
Sought litigation	25.0	16.7	58.3	166.7

Meanwhile, Table 3 shows that there is a low (63.3%) level of use of these strategies. This implies that prayed for peace, appeased the other party and educating farmers on their interdependence with herdsmen among others were the conflicts resolution strategies identified although their use was low. This is against what Ladipo (1997; Hodge and Anthony (1991) found in

a similar study that forcing, structural changes, avoidance, compromise and smoothing, suppression, smoothing, avoiding, compromise, third-party intervention, cooperation, democratic process, job rotation as well as confrontation were the identified conflict management strategies.



**Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on the level of use of conflicts resolution strategies**

Level of use of resolution strategies	Frequency	Percentage
Low	76	63.3
High	44	36.7
Total	120	100.0

Table 4 reveals that all institutions listed were involved in conflicts resolution as indicated by the respondents to some extent, although the use of traditional rulers was ranked first with a

weighted score 262.7. This was followed by crop farmer groups (192.3), local government committee (188.4), police force (175.8) and state government committee (167.5).

**Table 4: Distribution of respondents on the institutional involvement in conflicts resolution**

Institutions involved	To a large extent	To a lesser extent	Not at all	Weighted score
Traditional rulers	71.7	19.2	9.2	262.7
Crop farmer groups	43.3	5.8	50.8	192.3
Local government committee	39.2	10.0	50.8	188.4
Police force	32.5	10.8	56.7	175.8
State government committee	27.5	12.5	60.0	167.5
State security services	25.0	14.2	60.8	164.2
Veterinary practitioners	30.0	3.3	66.7	163.3
Law court	20.0	22.5	57.5	162.5
Civil defence corps	20.0	15.0	65.0	155.0

Meanwhile, Table 5 shows a tie results on level of institutional involvement in conflicts resolution. The implication is that traditional rulers, crop farmer groups, local government committee

and police force among others were institutions involved in conflicts resolution in the study area.

**Table 5: Distribution of respondent on level of institutional involvement of conflicts resolution**

Level of institutional involvement	Frequency	Percent
Low	60	50.0
High	60	50.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 6 reveals that that almost all institutions involved in conflicts resolution were able to achieve their conflict resolution objectives in one way or the other but nevertheless traditional rulers were ranked first with a weighted score 238.3. It

was followed by crop farmer groups (186.7), local government committee (179.2), police force (169.2), veterinary practitioners (164.8) and state government committee (163.3).

**Table 6: Distribution of respondents on the extent of achievement of resolution institutions**

Extent of achievement	To a large extent	To a lesser extent	Not at all	Weighted score
Traditional ruler	47.5	43.3	9.2	238.3
Police force	27.5	14.2	58.3	169.2
Law court	18.3	15.8	65.8	152.3
State security services	20.0	11.7	68.3	151.7
Civil defence corps	20.0	10.0	70.0	150.0
Local government committee	35.0	9.2	55.8	179.2
State government committee	25.8	11.7	62.5	163.3
Crop farmer groups	40.0	6.7	53.3	186.7
Veterinary practitioners	30.8	3.3	65.8	164.8

However, Table 7 reveals that there was a low (56.7%) level of institutional achievement of conflicts resolution. This implies that institutions involved in conflicts resolution were only able to

achieve very little in resolving conflicts in the study area. This is in against the findings of Albert, (2009) which found that the non- formal institution in conflicts management such as Local Community



Farmers Association (LCFA) recorded a high level of credibility among the population in the rural farming system. Therefore, since formal institutions employed did not work effectively, non-formal institutions should be engaged.

**Table 7: Distribution of respondent on level of institutional achievement of conflicts resolution**

Level of resolution achievement	Frequency	Percent
Low	68	56.7
High	52	43.3
Total	120	100.0

On constraints to conflicts resolution, Table 8 shows that language barrier and lack of funds for farmers association to intervene were ranked first with a weighted score of 291.7 respectively, then hostility (289.8), lack of

adequate support from the government (289.2), nomadic system of the herdsmen (287.3) and incompetence of the conflict resolution officials (280.8).

**Table 8: Distribution of respondents on the basis of constraints to conflict resolution (n= 120)**

Constraints	To a large extent	To a lesser extent	Not at all	Weighted score
Language barrier	92.5	6.7	0.8	291.7
Lack of funds for farmers association to intervene	92.5	6.7	0.8	291.7
Hostility	90.8	8.3	0.8	289.8
Lack of adequate support from the government	90.0	9.2	0.8	289.2
Nomadic system of the herdsmen	88.3	10.8	0.8	287.3
Incompetence of the conflict resolution officials	88.3	4.2	7.5	280.8
Illiteracy of the farmers	20.8	14.2	65.8	156.6

However, Table 9 reveals that 79.2% of the respondents indicated that the constraints identified were severe. This implies that, these constraints could go a long way to affecting both

institutions involvement and their achievement to conflicts resolution.

**Table 9: Distribution of respondents by their level of constraints to conflict resolution (n=120)**

Level of constraints	Frequency	Percent
Mild	25	20.8
Severe	95	79.2
Total	120	100.0

Table 10 presents the regression analysis of factors limiting institution achievement to conflicts resolution. Among factors isolated only farm size ( $t = 3.54$ ;  $p = 0.00$ ), conflict resolution strategy ( $t = 3.43$ ;  $p = 0.00$ ), and institutional involvement ( $t = 30.21$ ;  $p = 0.00$ ) were found to be

significant at  $\alpha_{0.05}$ . This implies that the main factors that affected institutions achievement were farm size, conflicts resolution strategies employed and institutional involvement. These factors in one way or the other contributed to the low level of institutional conflict resolution achievement.

**Table 10: Regression analysis of factors limiting institutional conflicts resolution achievement**

Variables	$\beta$ - value	t-value	p-value	Decision
Years of farming experience	0.03	1.45	0.15	Not significant
Farm size in hectare	0.07	3.54	0.00**	Significant
Conflict resolution strategy	0.11	3.43	0.00**	Significant
Institutional involvement	0.90	30.21	0.00**	Significant
Constraints to resolution achievement	0.00	-0.00	0.99	Not significant



Table 11 shows that institutional involvement ( $r = 0.98$ ;  $p = 0.00$ ) and conflicts resolution strategies ( $r = 0.73$ ;  $p = 0.00$ ) were positively correlated with institutional conflicts resolution achievement. This implies that both institutional involvement and conflicts resolution

strategies positively contributed to the level of institutional conflicts resolution achieved in the study area. However, constraints to conflict resolution ( $r = 0.08$ ;  $p = 0.42$ ) was not correlated with institutional conflicts resolution achievement.

**Table 11: PPMC analysis of relationship between constraints, institutional involvement, conflicts resolution strategy and institutional conflicts resolution achievement**

Variables	r- value	p-value	Inference
Institutional achievement index * constraints	0.08	0.42	Not significant
Institutional achievement index * institutional involvement	0.98	0.00	Significant
Institutional achievement index * resolution strategy	0.73	0.00	Significant

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conflict resolution strategies employed, institutional involvement and farm size are the major factors that limited the achievement of institution involved in conflict resolution. Therefore, effective involvement of institutions in conflicts resolution is highly recommended to resolving disputes and ameliorating the different interests of the farmers and herdsman, while other factors are checkmated so as to enhance a greater achievement in conflicts resolution.

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