



AN ASSESSMENT OF CONSEQUENCES OF PASTORALISTS AND CROP FARMER'S CONFLICTS ON RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The occurrence of conflicts over the use of competing natural resources between crop farmers and pastoralists in Nigeria were on the increase in recent times. The study investigated the consequences of pastoralists and crop farmer's conflict on rural livelihoods in Oyo state, Nigeria. A three-stage random sampling technique was used to select 90 farmers from six communities contiguous with pastoralists' settlements for the study. Data were collected with the aid of a structured questionnaire. The results revealed that home and farm destruction as well as sustaining of wounds and injuries with relative important indices of 0.66 and 0.65 respectively were incidences significantly affected during the conflicts. Similarly, reduction in crop yields, and farm income with 0.76 relative importance indices each accompanied the conflicts. In addition, reduction in food quality and quantity (0.71), farm job abandonment (0.72), sleepless night (0.64), and fear and anxiety (0.65) were reported by the respondents. Therefore, it was concluded that pastoralists and crop farmers' conflicts had negative consequences on every on many facets rural livelihoods in Oyo State. It was recommended the government and non-governmental organizations should come to the aid of the farmers to cushion the effects of the damages. All the stakeholders should come together and discuss and agree on amicable solutions to the problems. The government can be the mediator

Keywords: Destruction of farm, livelihood, reduced farm output, income, farm job abandonment and reduction in food quality

INTRODUCTION

In recent times, pastoralists and crop farmers have engaged each other in a destructive warfare that is threatening the peace and stability of Nigeria. The Fulani in Nigeria are found in Sahel savannah of the country (Agbaje et al 2013). However, they have to migrate down south and some areas of the middle belt to as a result of perpetual drought in the ecological zone which have reduced pasture and water availability (Umar, 2006). Consequently, the pastoralists migrated southwards to graze their livestock.

In the process, the migration of these has caused more harm than good in all these areas (Abugu and Onuba, 2015). For instance, between the year 2000 and 2015, there have been reported cases of conflicts and confrontation between the *Fulani's* and the indigenes of the areas they migrated to (Abugu, and Onuba, 2015). The media (print and electronics) is filled with reported cases of clashes between the Fulani's from the North and the inhabitants of the Plateau, Kogi, and Benue in the middle belt region of the country and some parts of the Eastern region (Abugu and Onuba, 2015).

The Sun New (2014) reports the clashes between the *Fulani's* and the *Agatu* people of Benue State and the clashes left several people dead. In the eastern parts of the country, like, Uzouwani (Enugu State), Ezeagu and Umuahia (Abia State), such clashes have not gone unnoticed. In 2013, the press media (Vanguard) reported that the Fulani killed three people and caused significant damage to crops in Umuahia, Abia State. The case of Benue State is pathetic as the

Fulani have become an army of occupation to the inhabitants of the areas.

The South-west region is not exempted from the unrest caused by the *Fulani* herdsmen. Recently, The Nation (2016), reports that armed herdsmen invaded Oke- Ako area in Ikole Local Government of Ekiti State and killed a farmer on his plot. Many of these acts have also occurred in agrarian communities of Oyo, Osun and Ondo States whereby crops were damaged and lives were lost.

The conflict had been primarily about resource use, damage to crops, blocking of transhumant corridors (Burtali) (Mohammed, 2013), farming along the valleys and stream/river banks and uncomplimentary agricultural policies by government. However, the recent conflict had assumed a dangerous dimension with the infusion of ethnic, religious and political factors into it. Cattle rustling, availability of dangerous weapons, intra-pastoralists conflicts, mercenary elements and dangerous drugs were added dimensions to the conflict (Mohammed, 2013). It is believed that many herdsmen who are involved in violent clashes with farmers in Nigerian villages are not Nigerians Ibrahim (Abdul' Aziz, 2014). According to Mohammed (2013), the Nigerian Constitution has given every citizen the fundamental right to freedom of movement in search of legitimate businesses. This may be held as the perception of the pastoralists over the use of natural resources, transhumance pastoralism is seen along these lines. Also, the ECOWAS Transhumance Protocol of 1998 and ECOWAS Protocol of Free Movement of Goods and Persons in West Africa guaranteed,



access to grazing rights in other countries in the ECOWAS zone including Nigeria.

Most of the crises were reported on the news; however, there is a dearth of information about the consequences of the conflicts on the livelihoods of the farmers in Oyo state. It is against this background that the study focused on answering the following research questions. What are the causes of conflicts among the farmers and the pastoralists in the study area? What are the consequences of the conflicts on the livelihood of inhabitants? What are the socio-psychological consequences of herdsmen/ farmers conflict?

The goal of the study is to assess the Consequences of pastoralists and crop farmer's conflicts on rural livelihoods in Oyo State, Nigeria

The specific objectives are to;

1. Identify the various causes of conflicts between the pastoralist and farmers in Oyo state
2. Examine the physical, economic and psychological consequences of the conflicts on the farmers and the pastoralist
3. Investigate the magnitude of the physical, economic and psychological consequences of the conflicts on the farmers and the pastoralist

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Oyo State, Nigeria. Oyo State is a landlocked state in southwest geo-political zone of the country, with its capital at Ibadan. It is bounded on the north by Kwara State, in the east by Osun State, in the south by Ogun State and in the west partly by Ogun State and Republic of Benin. The state was created in 1976 from the former Western State in 1991. The state is homogenous mainly inhabited by the Yoruba tribe. Oyo State has approximately an area of 28,454 square 29eighbours and is ranked 14th state by size in Nigeria. The landscape consists of old hard rocks and dome-shaped hills, which rise gently from about 500 meters in the southern part and reaching a height of about 1,219 metre above sea level in the northern part. Perennial rivers such as Oba, Ofiki Ogun, Oyan, Osun, Sasa, Erinle and Oni River originate from these highlands. The Climate is equatorial, notably with dry and wet seasons with relatively high humidity. The dry seasons span from November to March while the wet seasons starts from April and ends in October.

The average daily temperature ranges between 25° C (77.0° F) and 35° C (95.0°F). A two-stage sampling technique was employed to draw the sample for the survey. The first stage involved a purposive selection of six towns from Oyo State where pastoralists and crop farmers conflicts were prevalent. The towns include Okeho, Shaki, Iseyin, Aiyete, Igboho, and Kishi. The second stage involved snow-ball selection of 15

farmers and four while four Pastoralist from each town whose farms were destroyed by the herds of in recent times. Thus, a total of 90 farmers and 24 herdsmen were selected and used for the study. The difference in the farmers and pastoralist number was due to the prevalent of crop farmers in the area, when compared to the pastoralist. A well-structured interview schedule was used to obtain the information from the respondents. The data collected were analyzed using Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages and mean. Relative Important Index was used to measure the socio-psychological consequences of the conflicts on rural livelihoods.

The Relative Important Index (RII)

$$RII = \frac{\text{Sum of Weights } (W_1+W_2+W_3+ \dots +WN)}{A \times N}$$

Where W = weights assigned to each factor by the respondents and it ranges from 1 to 5 where '1' is less important and '5' is extremely important.

A = highest weight (i.e. 5 in this case), and N = total number of respondents.

Weighted score

$$= \frac{\text{No of SA} \times 5 + \text{No of A} \times 4 + \text{No of U} \times 3 + \text{D} \times 2 + \text{SD} \times 1}{A \times N}$$

Any weighted score below three is considered as not important and vice versa. The consequences were classified into four aspects namely, physical, economic, the social and psychological aspects. Between three to eight variables were used to measure these consequences. It is imperative to note that the mean point for the variables is 2.50 and any variable found to be greater than the mean point is considered to be more relevant while any variable found to be lesser than the mean point are considered to be less important or relevant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Causes of pastoralists and crop farmers' conflicts

The result in Table 1 revealed the major causes of pastoralist and farmers' conflict in Oyo state. The result indicated that 96.67, 83.33, 73.33, and 48.89 percent of the of the rop farmers reported that encroachment of farmland, crop damage, stealing of crops and competition for food and water respectively were the major causes of the conflict. The findings support the assertions of (Adelakun et al., 2015) that damage to crops is one of the major causes of farmers-pastoralist conflicts in Oyo state. The damage done to crops implies a reduction in the productivity and income of the respondents. Also, Dimelu et al. (2017) discovered that socioeconomic, security, production practices and institution-related factors were the major factors causing farmer-pastoralist conflicts in Kogi state Nigeria. On the contrary, the pastoralists

The herdsmen in Oyo state opined that (Table 1) the causes of conflicts between them and



the farmers include crop damage (91.67%), deliberate hostility (83.33%), ethnic rivalry (83.33%), farm encroachments (75.9%) and competition for food and water by man and animal (75.0%). Since the farmers and the pastoralist were able to identify the major causes of conflicts

between them, it is imperative that the problems could be easily solved if all the stakeholders could come together, discuss and agree on amicable solutions to the problems. The government can be the mediator.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on the causes of pastoralist and farmers' conflict in Oyo state

Causes of conflict	Farmers (N=90)		Herdsmen (N=24)	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Encroachment of farmland	66	96.67	18	75.00
Crop Damage	87	83.33	22	91.67
Ethnic rivalry	33	36.67	20	83.33
Indiscriminate bush burning	16	17.78	4	16.67
Stealing of crops	75	73.33	12	50.00
Competition for land and water	44	48.89	18	75.00
Deliberate hostility by other parties	16	17.78	6	25.00
Little respect for traditional rulers or landowners	22	24.44	20	83.33
Low awareness of stock routes	23	25.56	8	33.33
Depleting soil fertility	5	5.56	8	33.33
Low level of compliance to stock routes	31	34.44	8	33.33
Declining influence of traditional rulers	26	28.89	2	8.33

*Multiple responses

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Distribution of respondents based on consequences of conflict on farmers' livelihood

The effects were measured under four parameters; physical, economic, social and emotional effects. In terms of the physical effects, it was discernible in Figure 1 that the major physical effects of pastoralist-farmers conflict on rural livelihood were farm destruction, sustenance of injury, pollution of water, and assault as indicated by 93.33, 92.22, 90 and 85.56 percent of the respondents respectively. Other physical effects of pastoralist/farmer's conflict were the death of family members (40%), raping (11%). Idowu (2017) reported massive death toll of many innocent lives and actors as grave consequences of farmers-herdsmen's conflict in Nigeria Olayoku (2012) noted that between the year 2006 and 2014, Nigerian Watch database recorded 615 violent deaths related to cattle in the year 2006 and a massive increase in the death toll in 2011. Likewise in the year 2013, Sunday Trust recorded a total of 300 deaths (human or cattle) between January 1 and May 20 in the North Central states of Taraba,

Nasarawa, Plateau, Nasarawa, Kogi and Benue states respectively.

The major consequence to the pastoralist was sustenance of wound and injury (50%). These findings agreed with Sulaiman and Ja' afar (2010) who reported that several human lives were lost during the farmer-pastoralist conflicts in Bauchi state from 2003-2008. Also, Olabode and Ajibade (2010) revealed that the frequent causes of Fulani/farmers' conflict in Oke-Ero Local Government Area of Kwara State were the destruction of crops by cattle. Since Pastoralist-farmers' conflict threatens the existence and survival of farmers and their sources of livelihoods, there is an urgent concern to nib the problem to the board through sustainable solutions. Farmers were mostly at the receiving end of the crisis. This might be as a result of the ability of the pastoralist to move along with their animals to other locations for grazing. The government should ensure that the rural communities have adequate access to drinkable water throughout the year.

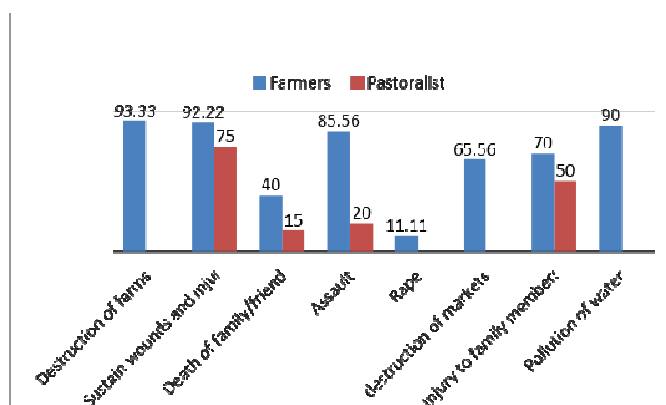


Figure 1: Effects of pastoralist-farmers conflict on rural Livelihood

Economic effects of pastoralist-farmers conflict on rural livelihood

Among the farmers, Figure 2 revealed that 94.44 of the respondents suffered from reduced income and output respectively, while 92.22 and percent of the respondents suffered from low crop yield. A few of the pastoralists (15.0, 18.0 and

48.0%) suffered from low productivity reduced animal production and reduced income respectively. There is the need for the government, private investors, and non-governmental organizations should come to the aid of the farmers in the study area through compensation to cushion the economic effects of the damages

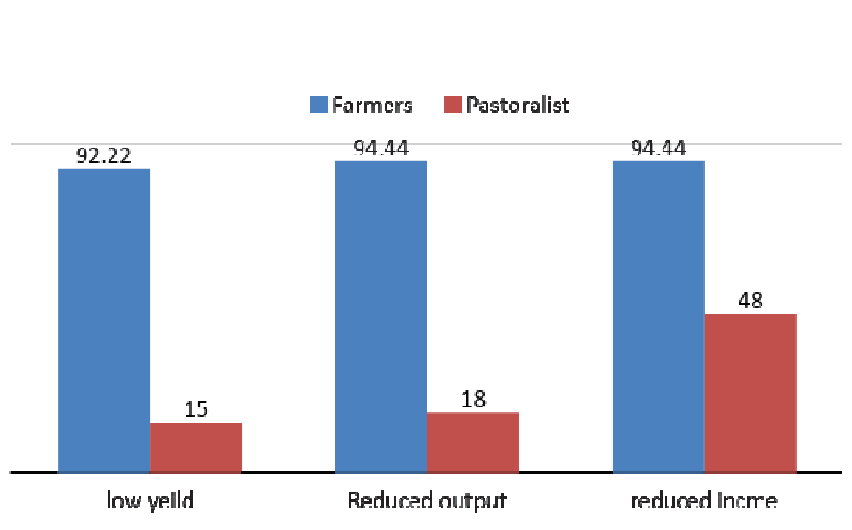


Figure 2: Economic effects pastoralist-farmers conflict on rural livelihood

Socially, the study (in Fig. 3) revealed that 86.67, 62.22 and 57.78 percent of the crop farmers suffered from personal and family health, self-esteem and social relationships respectively (Figure

3). None of the pastoralist suffered any social consequences. This might be because of the level of damage suffered by them was mild when compared to the farmers.

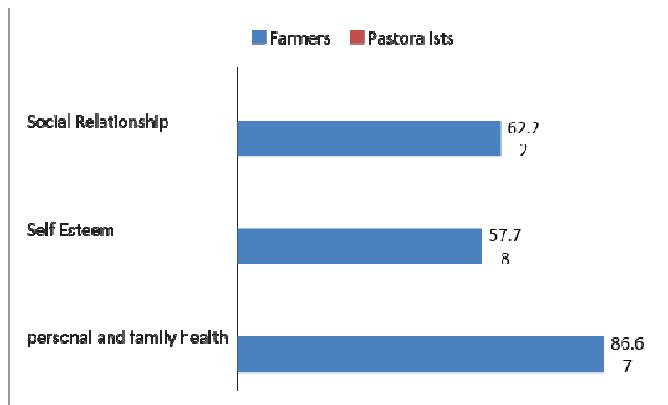


Figure 3: Social effects of pastoralist-farmers conflict on rural Livelihood

Psychological effects of the conflicts in Oyo state were Stress, worry and Anxiety, fear, and Anger as shown by 90.00, 82.22 and 74.44 percent of the respondents respectively, Stress, according to Bruce (1998) is a mental physical and emotional

strain on the body. It occurs occasionally and in response to a stressor. It is instructive to note that the farmers were more hard hit than the pastoralists.

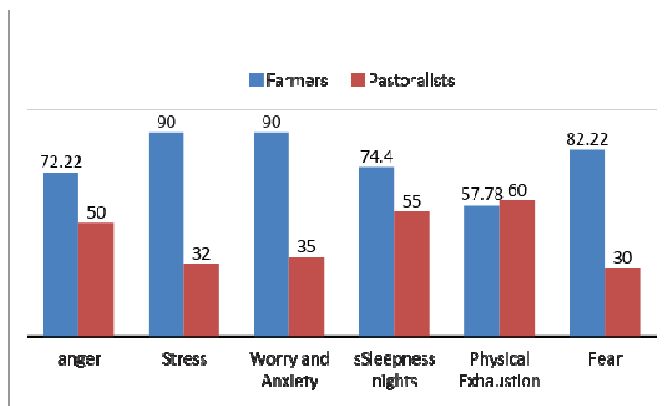


Figure 4: The Psychological consequences of pastoralist-farmers conflict on rural livelihood

Distribution of respondents based on the magnitude of the consequences of conflict on farmers' livelihood

The result in Table 2 revealed the distribution of respondents based on the extent of the consequences of pastoralist and farmers' conflict on farmers' livelihood in Oyo state. Two (home and farm destruction) as well as sustaining wound and injury) out of the five variables were the physical effects of the conflicts mostly felt among the rural inhabitants. All the economic variables affected respondents due to pastoralist and farmer's conflict in Oyo state. Four of the six psychological variables greatly affected respondents as a result of the conflicts. They are fear (0.71), stress (0.72), sleepless night (0.64), worry and anxiety (0.65) and were accorded 5th, 4th, 9th, 7th, positions respectively. According to Castro (2017), emotion deeply informs motivation; while strong emotional intensity provides the energy for action. Weak intensity manifests as low energy,

producing ineffective or meaningless responses. In essence, a farmer who could not sleep that is afraid or anxious would definitely have weak emotions and would not have enough energy for actions, thus leading to ineffectiveness and low productivity. Worry according to Borkovec, William Ray, and Stöber (1998) inhibits emotional processing, produces anxious and depressive experiences.

Adisa (2017) revealed varying degrees of psychological, physical and socioeconomic dimensions to the effects of the conflict among respondents from all sides (farmers and herdsmen). Also, (Odoh, 2012) justifies the necessity to develop and adopt various coping strategies to mitigate the effects of conflicts between farmers and herdsmen.

In terms of the magnitude of the consequences of the conflicts on herdsmen, only one out of the eighteen variables was relevant and this is the sustenance of wound and injury with a relative importance index of 0.646. It shows that



the farmers bear mostly the consequences of pastoralist and farmers' conflict.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by the magnitude of the effect of pastoralist and crop farmer's conflict

Extent of conflict effect on rural livelihood	Farmers			Pastoralists		
	Mean	RII	Rank	Mean	RII	Rank
Physical effects						
Farm destruction	2.62	0.66	6 th	1.25	0.313	15 th
Sustain wound and injury	2.60	0.65	7 th	2.58	0.646	1 st
Death	2.07	0.52	16 th	1.67	0.417	9 th
Assault	2.33	0.58	10 th	1.42	0.354	13 th
Rape	2.03	0.51	17 th	1.42	0.354	13 th
Destruction of market	1.98	0.49	18 th	1.17	0.292	17 th
Economic effects						
Crop yield	3.02	0.76	1 st	1.17	0.292	17 th
Reduce output	3.04	0.76	1 st	1.25	0.313	15 th
Reduce income from crops	3.02	0.76	1 st	1.17	0.292	17 th
Social effects						
Personal/family health	2.28	0.57	14 th	1.67	0.417	9 th
Self esteem	1.69	0.42	19 th	1.67	0.417	9 th
Social relationship	2.30	0.58	10 th	2.08	0.521	3 rd
Psychological effects						
Anger/emotional exhaustion	2.32	0.58	10 th	2.17	0.542	2 nd
Stress	2.84	0.71	5 th	1.83	0.458	6 th
Fear	2.87	0.72	4 th	1.83	0.458	6 th
Sleepless night	2.57	0.64	9 th	2.08	0.521	3 rd
Family inconveniences	2.32	0.58	10 th	1.83	0.458	6 th
Physical exhaustion	2.14	0.54	15 th	1.92	0.479	5 th
worry/anxiety	2.61	0.65	7 th	1.58	0.396	12 th

Source: Field survey, 2017

CONCLUSION

It could be affirmed that Pastoralist-farmers' conflict in Oyo state negatively impacts the livelihoods of the farmers. Both the farmers and the herdsmen suffer damages from the conflicts that arose between them. The farmers were mostly affected by the conflicts than the herdsmen.

The physical, economic, social and psychological aspects of rural farmers were greatly affected by the conflicts. The effects of the conflict were felt more by the farmers than the pastoralist

RECOMMENDATION

The study recommends that efforts should be made to make grazing laws in Oyo state to curb Pastoralist-farmers' conflict.

1. Grazing land should be provided for the animals during off season. Also, efforts should be made to provide silage and hay during the period of wet seasons and made available during dry seasons.
2. The government, private investors, and non-governmental organizations should come to the aid of the farmers in the study area through compensation for the damages done during the conflicts.
3. Farmers should be encouraged to plant either castor plant, Sennaalata or

Jathropha plants around their farms. Sennaalata plants put off animals, while castor plant is very poisonous to animals. Animals are naturally repelled by the smell of jathropha plants.

4. Adequate security measure should be provided for both the farmers and herdsmen in Nigeria. The security of lives of both the farmers and herdsmen are very important, hence all conflict resolution strategies should be employed to prevent further occurrence
5. Entrepreneurs should look into the commercialization of silage and hay production and processing
6. Adequate security measure should be provided for both the farmers and pastoralist in Nigeria.
7. All the stakeholders should come together and discuss and agree on amicable solutions to the problems. The government can be the mediator

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