

Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in the North Central Region of Nigeria (An Analysis of Cause and Effect)

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Abstract: The research examined the cause and effect of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in the North Central Region of Nigeria. It was conducted with the used of quantitative research methodology. Closed ended questionnaire was administered on 60 respondents systematically chosen from the 6 states that make up the Central Region of Nigeria. Primary data collected through this procedure was analyzed using the Positive Correlation Analysis. Desert encroachment, competition for land usage and encroachment on farming and grazing sites as several studies discovered are responsible for the conflict. But this research found out that state failure, poor local governance and ineffective mechanisms for conflict resolution and management among others are the major causes of the conflict. Effects of the conflict as the Researchers also found out include the loss of lives and properties as well as the growing cases of humanitarian crises are part of the major effects of the conflict. The Researchers recommended that, adequate state attention to security condition and situation in the region, good local governance at the community level, and establishment of effective mechanism for conflict resolution and management are necessary solution to Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in the North Central Region of Nigeria.

Keywords: Conflict, Farmers, Herdsmen, North Central, Region.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian state is predominantly an agrarian society providing employment for 30 percent of its population. Nigeria has huge agricultural potential with over 84 million hectares of arable land, of which only 40 percent is cultivated. Pastoral farming is the most predominant system of livestock farming in Nigeria and livestock owners are basically nomads travelling across the country in search of grazing fields and ready market. Due to the vast arable lands in the North-Central zone, the Fulani nomads prefer to take their livestock to these places, hence the encroachment on of the animals onto farmlands leading to the destruction of crops. This destruction in some cases causes the farmers to kill the animals which then leads to conflict between the farmers and herdsmen. The conflict between farmers and herdsmen in the North-Central region of Nigeria has continued to escalate as evidenced by recent killings in some communities and local government areas across the region especially as experienced in some communities of Agatu local government area of Benue state (NOIPolls, 2016: 1 and 2) in North-Central Nigeria in the early periods of 2016.

Nigeria is made up of six geo-political zones with the North-Central Region having six states which include: Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau states. Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory Abuja is also located in the region of the country. The region lies completely in the central portion of Nigeria. And its central location account for part of the reasons why it is often call the Middle Belt region of Nigeria. The region is a combination of two vegetation belts. Half portion of this region fall within the Sudan savannah while the remaining half within the Guinea savannah. The vegetation of the region is a wonderful blessing to the people of the area-for it bestowed on them, a fertile soil conducive for serious agricultural production. Grasses in this region which are green and fresh throughout the seasons provide one of the best foliage's for animal consumption in the whole of Nigeria and sub-Saharan region of Africa. Grassland in the Benue and

Niger rivers troughs provide the best grazing site in the country and the whole of western Sudan. The agricultural potentials of the region ahead of other parts of the country is glaring and Benue in particular with food production capacity sound enough to feed the whole of West African sub-region is code named the “Food Basket of the Nigerian Nation”.

The ongoing conflict between farmers and herdsmen across the north central region of Nigeria is costing the country at least \$14 billion in potential revenues annually. The clashes, which have resulted in the death of thousands of rural dwellers over the past two decades, usually arise from disagreements over the use of essential resources such as farmland, grazing areas and water points (Ogundipe and Oluwole, 2016:1). However, Farmers-Herdsmen conflict is a crisis over grazing and farming land as well as over water points and settlements. The natural and geographical features of the north central region of Nigeria are themselves enough reasons to understand that rural conflict in communities located in this region of the country are eminent. In the process of utilizing natural resources, interests are likely to clash with each other’s-especially in a federal entity with diverse cultural heritages like Nigeria. Communities in the north central region of Nigeria are agrarian. They depend on farming for survival and means of earning their livelihoods. And the Fulani herdsmen who are livestock breeder have their animal to protect because it is their source of wealth and survival. This implies that both parties exist under condition of protecting their various interests and wealth against each other’s interruption. The desire by both parties to protect their various interest have often result in bloody confrontations between the two parties- development that affects the stability of peace in the central region of the country and also threaten the unity of the Nigerian nation itself owing to the fact this conflict in most cases assumed religious inclination. And crises with religious inclination are very quick in destabilizing unity among the Nigerian people because of the complex nature of the country in relation to religious practice and orientation. This dimension which Farmers-Herdsmen conflict is assuming in this region of the country has escalated beyond religion to a point that politics have started taking over from where the religious aspect of the conflict ended.

Over the last year, the threat of the Boko Haram insurgency in north east Nigeria has gradually waned, yet a more deadly and far-reaching conflict has emerged. Over 100 people across three states (Benue, Kogi and Plateau) in north central region have been killed by suspected herdsmen. Attacks later became incessant and brutal. In February 2016, over 300 people died in a single attack on a community in a central state of Benue, from the herders commonly called the “Fulani Herdsmen”. In the same state, hundreds of people have been killed in several attacks since then. The conflict is an old one but one that has suddenly spiralled out of control. The nomadic herdsmen have cattle but declining space to feed them on. Farmers accuse the herdsmen of using their land to graze their cattle and infringing on their rights. Herdsmen have complained of that the the land available to graze has decline, in part, blaming communities for restricting the land available to them (Akinwotu, 2016:1). Farmers have their crops to protect and Herdsmen their livestock to protect. This simply implies that value of land for both crop and animal production is increasing across Nigeria. Other non agricultural activities that need land to flourished are also growing with rise in number of persons and urbanization across the country. Initial areas reserved for food and animal production are been lost on daily basis to other demands. And this itself potrays how competitive available land is to food production and grazing of livestock. The North Central region of Nigeria boast of land considered to be seriously rich in fertility for food production and foliage for livestock grazing. Therefore, migration of herdsmen to this region of the country from the Sahel portion of the country and from other West African countries is high. The increasing value of land has meant areas previously informally designated to the herders are now beneath airports and hotels. Climate change has also meant that the available of arable land to graze on is waning. The desire by each group to protect its interest and occupation amidst scarcity of land often result in conflict between the farmers and herdsmen. Central states of Benue, Kogi and Plateau have witnessed such conflict than the other three states of Niger, Nasarawa and Kwara in the region.

Herdsmen have been present to varying degree in all the thirty-six states across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria including Abuja the nation`s Federal Capital Territory. And in all these regions, conflict between them and farmers has been reported on several and different occasions. But the occurrence of such confrontation in the north central region of the country surpassed those of the other regions of Nigeria. The pressure on land is increasing the movement of herdsmen from the Sahel region of the country to the vast grassland in the central area of the country. This increase in movement is often accompanied with pressure on available land in the central region of the country. The scale of deaths incurred have always created tensions on how a seemingly previously contained conflicts could lead to massacres that today stands as one of the major threats to national security, peace and unity in Nigeria. Investigating the actual causes of this conflict, it effects and how alternative measures can be adopted to avoid future re-occurrences of the conflicts are the task which the Researcher intend to achieve in this research.

Problem Statement:

Since 2002, Plateau state has witnessed one or more forms of Farmers-Herdsmen conflict. This development has refused to come to an end till date. Political interruption has instead of helping, worsen the situation beyond expectation of the ordinary citizens. And today, several communities surrounding the city of Jos are no going areas for certain ethnic groups of people. In Benue, re-occurrences of confrontations between farming communities and cattle breeders are on the rise. Both Kogi and Nasarawa states as well as Niger and Kwara are also having their own share of attacks promoted by conflict over farm and grazing lands. Water points have also triggered conflict in water front communities along the banks of rivers Benue and Niger at different times and occasions. The politicization of this conflict which is creating avenue for some people to operate with impunity while others suffer the full wrought of the law is further escalating the propensity of perpetuating the conflict in this region of the country. Several livestock are being lost, farm and grazing lands are suffering from persistent destruction, water points are becoming venues for attacking targets, communities are being raised down to rubbles in waves of persistent attacks and lives are also been wasted to this conflict. Alternative solutions are required to salvage this ugly situation in this region of Nigeria. The desire to ameliorate this unending development is one of the objectives that this research is designed to achieved in the long run.

Objectives of the Study:

This research is designed to achieve a number of objectives. Basic among which include:

1. To examine the causes of Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in north-central region of Nigeria.
2. Assess the effects of this conflict in north-central Nigeria on the people of the region.
3. And to come up with tangible solutions that will ameliorate the problem of Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in north-central region of Nigeria.

Research Questions:

The research raised and answered a number of questions which include:

1. What are some of the causes of Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in the north-central region of Nigeria?
2. How does this conflict affect the people of this region of Nigeria?
3. And through what means can the problem of Farmers-Herdsmen conflict be ameliorated in the north-central region of Nigeria?

Literature Perspectives:

Conflict refers to some form of friction, disagreement, or discord arising within a group when the beliefs or action of one or more members of group are either resisted by or unacceptable to one or more groups, and involve violence, interpersonal discord, and psychological tension, known as intergroup conflict. Conflict in groups often follows a specific course. Routine group interaction is first disrupted by an initial conflict, often caused by differences of opinion, disagreements between members, or scarcity of resources (Wikipedia, 2017:1). In its general usage, the word or term conflict envelops view of difference and disagreement, strife and struggle. As submitted by Hocker and Wilmot (1985:88), conflict is the in-traction of independent people who perceive incompatible goals and interference from each other in achieving goals. Conflict is a form of constant antagonism over scarce resources. All conflicts share common qualities. The first is that there is a kind of contact between the parties that are involved, secondly, the parties in conflict perceive conflicting views and finally, one of the parties always want to redress existing contradictions (Vanderlin, 2005:33 and Deutsh, 1991:29).

Every farming system such as cattle herding has a boundary, which separates it from the larger system, which make up the environment. The boundary represents the limits in the larger system. Farmers increasingly compete with Herdsmen for farmland, pastures, water, trees and the use of range land in general (Akpaki, 2002:44). There is clear demarcation between different types of conflict in farmer-nomadic herder relations. There is a distinction between the various types of conflicts in farmer-nomadic relations. While dispute refers to disagreement between two or more persons or groups, a violent conflict involves mayhem, the destruction and killing of persons and livestock, arising from a dispute. A conflict of interest, on the other hand, is seen as the adoption of opposing views and concerns by different actors, which usually takes the form of nonviolent competition, for control of resources in a given area. Farmer-herder differences are not only seen

as resources conflict but are also some times represented as ethnic conflict involving the two groups (Ofuoku and Isife, 2010:34). Since herder and farmer groups have very different values, customs, physical and cultural characteristics, disputes between them in communities across the North Central Region of Nigeria are frequently characterized as ethnic conflict.

Conflict per se, is not bad. It is perhaps a necessity in the evolution and development of human organization. But when it degenerates to violent, destructive clashes, they become not only unhealthy but also counterproductive and progress-threatening (Oluwasegun and Solagberu, 2010: 22). Conflict over grazing and farming land as well as over water points and land ownership is very high in communities around the north central region of Nigeria. But then conflict in general term is a word which explains a disagreement and antagonistic situations that are far much higher than confrontations over land or grazing points and water. In several other cases Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in north central region of Nigeria has been considered as land owners and squatters confrontation over the control of the scarce resources. The struggle or confrontations for the purpose of controlling land and the resources there in is not only the causes of confrontations in this region of the country. Therefore, such conflicts cannot only be considered as confrontations for the purpose of controlling land and the resources there in. In addition to land, several other factors have contributed to the rise of conflict in the north central region of Nigeria.

In addition to land owners and squatters' disagreements over land, crop farming and livestock rearing as Kaunganya (1992:1) observed has contributed to the rise of conflict in several communities over the year. However, Farmers-Herdsmen conflicts as can be easily accepted are what Alston et al (2014:1) considered as land owners and squatters confrontations. In the north central region of Nigeria, land owners adopt violence as a tactic of increasing the likelihood of successful eviction of squatters. And in return, squatters use violence to increase the probability that the form will be appropriated in their favor as part of government land reform program. In a related attempt, (Baye 2002:4) considered rural conflict as farmers and cattle breeders confrontation. Land owners also engage in confrontation over trespasses. These are also part of the broader concept of conflict. Farmer-Herdsmen conflict is a confrontation and clash between farmers and cattle breeders. Although, Manu et al (2014:5) considered these conflict as confrontation over land. In the north central region of Nigeria, conflict is connected with competition for land control and ownership, trespasses on grazing route by farmers and on farming land by grazers as well as for control of water points and natural resources.

Absence of government control and the provision of security in rural areas are some of the reasons or the main reasons for the repeated clashes between Farmers and Herdsmen in North Central Nigeria. No fewer than 521 people have been killed and several others injured and displaced in the conflict over grazing areas in in the north central region between 2014 and 2015 alone. In February, 2016, over 300 people including women and children were reportedly killed as Fulani herdsmen ransacked communities in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue state in north central Nigeria. Apart from absence of government control and provision of security in rural and agrarian communities, demographic shift between livestock and human population, climate change, land use rights, and the collapse of informal conflict resolution mechanisms are reasons for the increase in Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in North Central region of Nigeria (Ibekwe, 2016:1). Several communities in the six states across the north central region of Nigeria exist without effective policing system. In several other rural areas, Police Stations or outposts do not even exist-development that create security vacuum and smooth atmosphere for the conduct of rural crime and various forms of unlawful activities.

In Nigeria, the necessity to provide food and raw materials for industry and export in order to meet ever growing demands has led to both "intensification and extensification" of land use (Nyongo and Fiki, 2015:22). Arable crop and cattle producers have not only intensified the use of their respective lands, they have also been exploring other land frontiers for farming and grazing. Farm lands that are normally allowed to fallow for natural rejuvenation of the soil are fast disappearing, while lands that traditionally provide dry season grazing to pastoralists are becoming shorter in supply (Gefu and Kolawole, 2016:18). The resultant increase in competition for arable land has often times led to serious manifestation of hostilities and social friction between Farmers and Herdsmen in the North Central Region of Nigeria. The conflict has not only heightened the level of insecurity, but has also demonstrated high potential to exacerbate the food crisis in Nigeria and other countries depending on food importation from Nigeria due to loss of farmers lives, animals, crops and valuable properties (Adisa and Adekunle, 2010:44). The complex land-use system that has changed markedly over time, has culminated in the present-day tension and conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen in the North Central Region of Nigeria (Tenuche and Olarenwaju, 2009:364). Political factors have contributed to heightened tension and violence in North Central Nigeria between Farmers and Herdsmen: these include an absence of accountable governance at all levels, the marginalization of groups' especially nomadic herdsmen, the resurgence of identity politics,

and the exploitation of ethno-regional and religious differences. The tension is worsened further still by the weakening of national cohesion resulting from patterns of social and economic inequalities, which tend to occur along ethno-regional lines (Mohammed and Ibrahim, 2015:11). Political factors contribute to the growing conflict between Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen in North Central region of Nigeria. Especially in communities situated in Plateau state where fear of domination and retaking of indigenous land by Fulani herdsmen and settlers have often triggered conflict. Government ineffective environmental policy of rolling back desert encroachment to prevent further push south ward in search of pasture for livestock itself is politics. Though the frequency and intensity of competition among various groups or land users in several other cases has led to conflict than political motive and factor in various communities across the North Central region of Nigeria.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted with the used of quantitative methodology. Closed ended questionnaire was administered on 60 respondents systematically selected from the six states in the North Central Region of Nigeria. Each state is represented by 10 respondents chosen from one of its local government area. Among every 10 respondents chosen, there were 4 Farmers, 4 Herdsmen and 2 Local Government Officials. The respondents were selected from the local government areas which have recorded more and frequent conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen in their respective state. The questionnaire was administered by the Researcher in each of the six chosen areas at different time. But the questions which respondents were asked are similar in all the six locations. Data were also collected on the respondents' biography such as gender, age, marital status, religion, occupation and academic qualification. Biographic data collected were analyzed with the used of descriptive statistic. Positive Correlation Analysis (PCA) was used in analyzing the data collected through the administration of closed ended questionnaire. Statistical correlation was measured by coefficient correlation where numerical values ranges from Ho to -1.0 gave the indication of the strength of relationship was used. Such as:

$r > 0$ indicated positive relationship

$r < 0$ indicated negative relationship

$r = +1.0$ described a perfect positive correlation

$r = -1.0$ described a perfect negative correlation

The closer the coefficients were to +1.0 and -1.0, the greater the strength of relationship as specified below:

<u>Value or r</u>	<u>Strength of relationship</u>
-1.0 to -0.5 or 1.0 to 0.5-----	Strong
-0.5 to -0.3 or 0.3 to 0.5-----	Moderate
-0.3 to -0.1 or 0.1 to 0.3-----	Weak
-0.1 to 0.1-----	Non-or very weak

The Researchers presented all the data collected in a tabular form as well as with the used of statistical instruments like graphs, histogram, pie charts, etc. All data presented and analyzed led to the emergence of results which were also discussed by the Researchers.

Data Presentation and Analysis:

Below is the presentation of data in relations to the respondents' demographic status.

Table 1: Demographic Distribution of Respondents

Variables	Farmers		Herdsmen		LG. Officials	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Male	18	30.00	24	40.00	6	10.00
Female	6	10.00	0	0	6	10.00
D2=Age						

20-25	4	6.67	6	10.00	2	3.33
26-30	6	10.00	4	6.67	2	3.33
31-35	8	13.34	8	13.33	4	6.67
36-40	4	6.67	4	6.67	2	3.33
41-Above	2	3.33	2	3.33	2	3.33
D3=Religion						
Islam	0	0	24	40.00	4	6.67
Christianity	22	36.67	0	0	6	10.00
Traditional	2	3.33	0	0	2	3.33
D4=Educational						
Non-formal Education	6	10.00	3	5.00	0	0
Islamic/Arabic	4	6.67	18	30.00	3	5.00
Primary	10	16.66	2	3.33	1	1.67
Secondary	3	5.00	1	1.67	5	8.33
Tertiary	1	1.67	0	0	3	5.00
D5=Marital Status						
Married	17	28.34	20	33.34	6	10.00
Single	2	3.33	4	6.67	2	3.33
Divorced	2	3.33	0	0	2	3.33
Widow	3	5.00	0	0	2	3.33

Source: Field Survey (2017)

Analysis of Respondents Demographic Data:

Table 1 as given above shows that 80% of the respondents are male while 20% of them are female. Out of this number of respondents, 20% are within the ages of 20-25, 20% fall between the ages of 26-30 while 33.34% are between the ages of 31-35 and 16.67% are between 36-40 years old. Only 9.99% of them fall between the ages of 41 and above. Also, table 1 reveals that 55% of them 46.67% are Muslim i.e. Islam as popularly referred to while 46.67% are Christian and 6.67% belong to traditional religions practiced across the North Central region of Nigeria. In terms of educational qualification, 15% of them had Non-Formal Education while 41.67% of them had Islamic and Arabic Education. Also, 21.66% of them had Primary Education and 15% had Secondary Education while 6.67% of them had Tertiary Education. Married people formed 71.68% of the respondents while single people are represented by 13.33% of the respondents. Divorce (s) form 6.66% of the respondents while 8.33% of the respondents are widows who have lost either their wives or husbands to the ageing conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen in communities across the North Central region of Nigeria. Respondents are systematically chosen by the Researchers to ensure representation based on population.

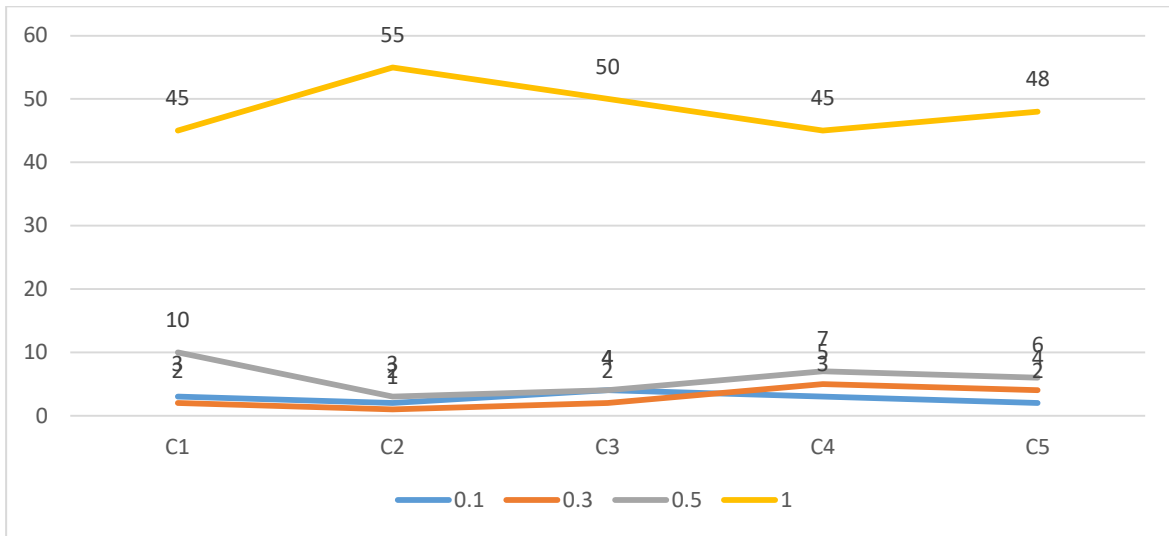
Table 2: Causes of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in North Central Nigeria

CAUSES	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.0
C1.Tresspasses into farming/grazing sites by both land users	3	2	10	45
C2.Poor policing system in rural agrarian communities	2	1	3	55
C3.Government ineffective environmental policy	4	2	4	50
C4.Light arms proliferation	3	5	7	45
C5.Lack of effective mechanism for conflict resolution	2	4	6	48

Source: Field Survey (2017)

Table 2 shows that there exist a strong relationship and correlation between C1, C2, C3, C4 as well as C5 and Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in the North Central region of Nigeria. This is indicated by positive and strong reactions from the respondents involved in this research as majority of their responses to issues given in C1, C2, C3, C4 and C5 are =1.0 which is $r > 0$ and indicate positive relationship where $r = +1.0$ described a perfect positive relationship between C1, C2, C3, C4 As well as C5 and Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in the North Central Region of Nigeria.

Figure 1: Respondents Responses to Causes of the Conflict



Source: Field Survey (2017)

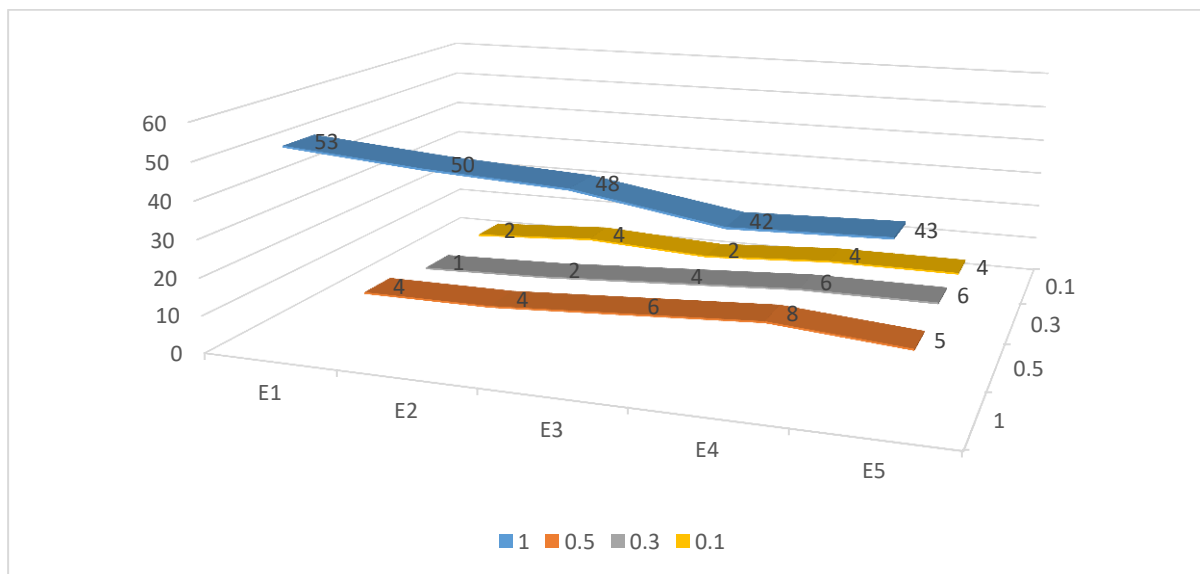
Table 3: Effects of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in North Central Nigeria

EFFECTS	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.1
E1.Loss of lives and properties	53	4	1	2
E2.Reduction in Food and Animal Production	50	4	2	4
E3.Internal Displacement of Persons (IDPs)	48	6	4	2
E4.Population Migration	42	8	6	4
E5.Rise in Socio-economic and Political vices	43	5	8	4

Source: Field Research (2017)

Table 3 as given above clearly indicated a positive relationship between E1, E2, E3, E4 as well as E5 and Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in the North Central region of Nigeria. Hence majority of the respondents gave opinions which fall under 1.0. And 1.0 indicates a positive strength of relationship as in $1.0=r>0$ where $r=+1.0$ described a perfect positive correlation between E1, E2, E3, E4 as well as E5 and Farmers-Herdsmen conflict in the North Central region of Nigeria.

Figure 2: Respondents Responses to the Effects of the Conflict



Source: Field Survey (2017)

3. DISCUSSION OF RESULT

Conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen in the North Central Region of Nigeria is actually constituting a serious threat to Nigeria's national security and unity. Several factors and reasons account for the causes of the ageing conflict between the agricultural land users in the central region of the country. Farmers at different times have been accused by Herdsmen of trespassing into grazing routes in the process of cultivation as there are physical signs to show the demarcation on land between grazing routes and farming sites. In similar manner, Farmers also have consistently been accusing Herdsmen of making incursion into farming sites and even trespassing into farms and feeding their cattle with crops cultivated by Farmers. The both agricultural land users agreed that they both trespasses unknowingly into each other territories. But then, the nature and waves of attacks emanating from provocations caused as a result of these trespasses and the casualties both in lives and properties left many in doubt on the possible of government to effectively resolve and manage the situation. Government environmental policy directed towards pushing back desert encroachment in the far northern end of the country so as to reduce the southward movement of Herdsmen in search of pasture for their livestock is not effective. Policing system in several communities across the North Central Region of Nigeria is very poor. And even in many other communities, there are no provision for Police outpost. This has continued to make communities in the region vulnerable to persistent attacks by Herdsmen and other armed persons often suspected to be Boko Haram Insurgents disguising in the form of Herdsmen. Light arms proliferation which has made it possible for arms to illegal find their ways into the hands of unauthorized persons have also contributed to the rise in attack of farming communities in the Central Region of Nigeria. Party Politics has also effected the usefulness and effectiveness of traditional institutions as mechanisms for resolving and managing conflict between Framers and Herdsmen in the Central Region of Nigeria. The contamination of traditional institutions role of resolving and managing rural and other form of internal crisis basic among which is the Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict has contributed in the escalation of the conflict between the two agricultural land users in the central region of the country.

And in addition to the fact that the conflict has left several lives and properties wasted on both sides. The humanitarian crisis emanating from the conflict left many in doubt on the ability of Nigerian authority to be able to bring the conflict to a halt. Growing number and cases of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) couple with the security situation and anxiety created across the region have also resulted in the believe that the conflict has gone out of state control. Explosion of population migration from farming communities into urban centers has also contributed in the reduction of food and animal production. Destitution and unemployment as well as urban congestion created as a result of exodus of people to cities which are mainly consumption but not production centers as far as agriculture in developing country is concerned have also led to the growth of other social vices like crime, prostitution, street begging, political thugs, as well as hawking on streets by children of school going ages who were forced out of schools as a result of internal displacement promoted by the conflict. The conflict at its current stage show signs of constant rejuvenation instead of drifting towards end. This calls for urgent intervention in order to ameliorate the situations created by the conflict. And it is in pursuance of this objective that this research came up with a number of recommendations as made by the Researchers.

Major Findings:

However, several reasons have been identified as the causes and effects of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in the North Central Region of Nigeria. Based on the causes and effects identified, the followings emerged as the major findings of this research:

1. State failure, poor local governance most especially in relations to community policing system and ineffective mechanism for resolving and managing conflict at the community level are the causes of conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen in the North Central Region of Nigeria.
2. Loss of lives and properties, rise in humanitarian crises especially Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), population migration as well as growth of socio-economic and political vices are the effects of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in the North Central Region of Nigeria.
3. Adequate state attention to security condition and situation in the region, promotion of good local governance as well as the establishment of effective mechanism for resolving and managing conflict in the region are good solution to the conflict.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the major findings made above, the following recommendations are made by the Researchers as suggestions on how Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in the North Central Region of Nigeria can be tackled.

1. Adequate attention to security condition and situation must be created in communities across the North Central Region of Nigeria. Communities without Police out Posts have to be provided one urgently to guide against possible invasion by Herdsmen and other armed persons disguising in the form of Herdsmen to perpetuate attacks on farming communities. Police monitoring service should also be provided to monitor the activities of Herdsmen across the region so as to protect them from attacks by Farmers. And to also ensure that they carry out their grazing occupation in accordance with the established ethic and standard to that effect.
2. Good local governance at the community level across the region should be provided. This should include the provision of services which are required to improve the living conditions of the Farmers and Herdsmen. Schools, hospitals, water, electricity and other amenities should be provided at the community level. Adequate arrangement must also be put in place to provide mobile health service and school system for Nomadic Herdsmen and their families to ensure that they do not divert from the grazing routes to farming communities in search of these amenities. This will reduce the chances of contact which often easily leads to confrontation between the both land users.
3. The formal method and institution of conflict resolution and management has failed to meet up the need and aspiration of both Farmers and Herdsmen in the North Central Region of Nigeria. Delay and denial of justice as well as political manipulation of administration and dispensation of justice have left both Farmers and Herdsmen in doubt about the possibility of getting justice in the formal legal institution. And also, Herdsmen are often on transit. Their mobile and nomadic lifestyle has made it difficult for them to withstand the delay in administration of justice as they are not permanently settled in one particular place. Re-empowerment and de-politicization of traditional institution with full state support to mediate as mechanism for resolving and management of the conflict will go a long way in solving the situation. Justice delay and deny are not associated with traditional institution methods of resolving and managing conflict. And during the era of military rule that traditional institution exist without party politics manipulation, it has served effectively in this regard as conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen was not as pronounced as it is now.

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