

**HERDSMEN AND FARMER'S CONFLICTS IN SOUTH WEST NIGERIA : A
CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF CAUSES, EFFECTS AND RESOLUTION
MECHANISMS**

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ABSTRACT

The Southwest zone of the country is not in any way immune or protected from the Fulani herdsmen and farmers' conflicts.

What is worrisome is how Southwest Nigeria, that is not part of the North has suddenly become the epicenter of fulani herdsmen and farmers conflict. According to Olugbenga (2013), the Southwest zone of Nigeria are predominantly Yoruba and their major occupation is farming (land cultivation). They plant all kinds of food and cash crops. In addition, they embark on wildlife hunting. The average Yoruba engage in farming, while the women do menial jobs, such as fetching fire-wood, processing and sales of farm produce. There exists a close synergy between the Southern Yoruba and the Northern fulani. This is because the Yoruba generally love festivities and celebration which make cattle business lucrative in the southern states of Nigeria. On the other hand, the Fulani also look out for greener pastures and water for the survival of their herds.

today, the Southwest zone is not, in any way, protected from the conflict emanating from the fulani herdsmens movement across the country as they have carried out attacks in the states in the zone. For example, Olaniyan (2017) disclosed that on April 20, 2016, herdsmen attacked five communities in Lagelu Local Government Area of Oyo State and a number of people were killed in the process; on 21 May 2016, Oke-Ako community in Ikole Local Government Area of Ekiti State suffered a similar fate when Fulani herdsmen invaded and killed two people. Following this killing, Olaniyan (2017) revealed that Governor Fayose gave out cash and ammunition to local hunters and vigilante groups, with a directive to attack and kill herders in return. The Governor also, placed a ban on open grazing via a law titled: "Prohibition of Cattle and Other Ruminants Grazing in Ekiti, 2016", made by State House of Assembly, which was supported by Afenifere group (a Yoruba socio- cultural group); but condemned by groups from the northern region. The law criminalizes grazing in some places within the state and outside certain period in the day. It also prohibited carriage of any kind of weapon by herdsmen, with the charge of terrorism hanging on the neck of flouters and six months jail for offenders, among others.

There have been series of suggestions from the public and reactions at the national level to create ranches, Ruga as well as the national grazing bill initiative - The 1965 Grazing Reserve Law; the 1978 Land Use Act; the 2016 Ekiti State Anti-Grazing Law; the 2017 Benue State Anti-Grazing Law (Udoekanem, Adoga and Onwumere, 2014; Olugbenga, 2017; Olaniyan 2017; Ogboru and Adejonwo-Osho 2018). Nonetheless, the extent to which the conflict has been resolved in the country is in doubt. Therefore, this study is to investigated the causes and effects of Fulani

Herdsmen-Farmers Conflict in Nigeria's Southwest zone and the mechanism put in place to resolve the conflict.

Keywords: Fulani Herdsmen, Farmers, Conflict, Conflict Resolution, Conflict Management.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fulani herdsmen-Farmers' conflict is one of the national security challenges in Nigeria, constituting a serious threat, not only to lives and property, but to food and livestock production in the country. According to Tonah (2002), the Fulani ethnic group is a tribe of over 20million people; 70% of whom are nomadic grazers, natives to almost all the West African countries such as Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cote d'ivoire, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. Traditionally, the males are saddled with the responsibility of grazing and managing the herds. The females take charge of milking the animals, weaving and mat making; they also perform economic complementary roles, such as hawking of milk ('wara') honey and local herbs. However, in recent times, their activities have started to threaten national unity, food security, employment, right to life and property in Nigeria. consequently, the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) recently placed the Nigeria's Fulani herdsmen as the world's fourth deadliest militant group for having accounted for about 1,229 deaths in 2014. It was predicted that the Fulani herdsmen might well surpass Boko Haram as Nigeria's most dangerous group (GTI cited in Oli, Ibekwe & Nwankwo, 2018:31).

Africa Report (2017:252) confirmed that the violence conflict between the Fulani herdsmen and Farmers in the northern communities escalated in recent years and are spreading southward, threatening the country's security and stability. With an estimated death toll of approximately 2,500 people in 2016, these clashes are becoming as potentially dangerous as Boko-Haram insurgency in the northeast. For instance, *Ajala (2018) reported that* in 2017, particularly in Benue State, about 1,000 people were killed in more than 50 clashes. He added that gunfire echoed out on one night alone left 73 people dead and hundreds were injured after herdsmen unleashed terror in two local government areas mostly populated by farmers. Further to this, Kaniye and Ebeku (2018) noted that in the first six months of 2018, more than 100 fatal incidents of violence than any previous experience occurred, which worsened the situation as numerous people were killed by Fulani herdsmen and several villages/communities were burnt down. According to International Crisis Group (ICG, 2018) the scourge of hostilities was concentrated in Plateau, Benue and Nasarawa States in the North Central zone and in the adjoining Adamawa and Taraba States in the Northeast zone. In the Northwest zone, Zamfara State is also a major victim of the violence.

1.1 Problem Statement and Justification

One of the incessant problems between Fulani herdsmen and Farmers is often the struggle of farmers against the Fulani herds invading and destroying their farms crops, the Fulani herdsmen accuse the crop farmers of antagonizing their rights to grazing lands. Fasona & Omojola (2005) identified that the struggle for the use of agricultural land for planting and grazing is becoming fiercer and increasingly widespread in Nigeria, largely due to intensification of production activities that are necessitated by rising human population. Hence, Olugbenga (2013) posited that even the Nigerian police and military appear to have failed on different occasions to stem the

activities of the Fulani herdsmen and this has constituted a threat to national security and unity in the country.

Also Ingawa, Tarawali and Kaufmann (1989), Ibrahim (2012) have pointed to the fact that the Nigerian Grazing Reserve Act of 1964 was passed as an initial attempt to improve Fulani access to grazing land for their cattle, simultaneously encouraging sedentarisation in order to address existing conflicts between farming and grazing communities and improve provision of essential amenities to pastoralist families. In a broader sense, it was expected that the policy would help address some of the wider constraints facing livestock development in Nigeria at the time, such as disease control and market supply. Following this, the National Agricultural Policy of 1988 declared that a minimum of 10% of the national territory, equivalent to 9.8 million hectares, would be allocated for the development of grazing reserves in an attempt to protect pastoralism. However, the full enforcement of these policies is in doubt. Therefore, this research investigated the Fulani herdsmen and farmers conflicts in Southwest geo-political Zone of Nigeria, causes and the effect.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. explore the causes of Fulani herdsmen and crop farmers' conflict in the states in Southwest Nigeria.
- ii. find out the effects of the conflict on the livelihood/productivity of Fulani herdsmen and crop farmers in the states in Southwest Nigeria.
- iii. analyze the mechanism put in place to resolve the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in Southwest Nigeria.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

A number of scholars have carried out research on Fulani herdsmen and farmers conflict. For instance, Ningxin (2018) study on "Nigeria's Fulani herdsmen-farmers conflict and peace building" assessed the conflict between Fulani herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria, and give consequences of the conflict. According to Ningxin, tens of thousands of Nigerians have been displaced. Women and girls were particularly affected and in poverty, there is lack of access to resources and their husbands were killed in the violence in the Fulani-Farmer conflict. Violent conflicts between herdsmen and farmers from Nigeria have escalated in recent years, which threaten people's lives and the country's stability. The conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and farmers have resulted in a humanitarian crisis. It was suggested that there is need for the African Union and other organizations to help mediate by bringing up strategies and tactics in order to prevent, manage, and resolve this conflict. It added that a nation can only grow gradually when people get along with each other and cooperate with the government. Mediation and other interventions are useful in reducing prejudice .in cross-cultural conflicts. Basic understanding of cultural differences is the key to evaluating strategies to reduce conflict. Mediators can help in establishing a positive connection between parties. It is essential to get more knowledge of the cultural and historical backgrounds of the different parties. The analysis of this conflict can help individuals to pursue social equality, economic equity, and political rights, as well as to reinforce social co-existence and enhance peace-building in a multi-cultural environment.

Ahmed-Gangum, (2018) investigation of the Herdsmen and Farmers' Conflict in Nigeria: Another Dimension of Insecurity' explained the rationale and how specific perennial conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and Famers in Nigeria are being resolved to enable the people to resume

normal life. In doing this, it critically examined the perspectives of the disputants and the policy adopted by Federal and some State Governments to resolve it. It was found that the conflicts created tension, not only in areas where there was direct confrontation between the disputants, but the conflicts terrorized every community and put them on alert to ensure that both short term and long term solution was provided to return the State to a violence free community. Some state governments made specific policies, which include inter-group committees and or after due process of law making in a democratic society, presented open grazing prohibition and establishment of ranches' laws to guide behavior and the resolution of future conflicts that may arise between farmers and herdsmen in their respective states. Yet, pockets of threats to life and property continued in some parts of the country to ensure the laws are not enforced and "cattle colonies" were established instead. It was recommended that both parties to the dispute should continue to exercise restraints, and obey Government policy/law by using institutional approaches to resolve grievances. Equally, a stop should be put to the destruction of lives and property. From the review work of Ningxin (2018); Ahmed-Gamgum, (2018); and others literatures on Fulani herdsmen and Famers conflict, it is obvious that these scholars have made commendable contributions to the subject under study. There is no doubt that some variables and characteristics or indicators identified in their contributions would be of immense support to this research.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The work adopted *Realistic conflict theory* also known as *realistic group conflict theory*. is a social psychological model of inter-group *conflict*. The length and severity of the *conflict* is based upon the perceived value and shortage of the given resource. McLeod (2008) confirms that Muzafer Sherif is a famous social psychologist important to the psychological understanding of groups and their members. His main contribution is known as realistic conflict theory which accounts for group conflict, negative prejudices, and stereotypes as being the result of competition between groups for desired resources.

Schofield (2017) explained that the realistic group conflict theory (RGCT) states that competition between groups for finite resources leads to intergroup stereotypes, antagonism, and conflict. Such competition creates incompatible goals for members of different groups because one group's success in obtaining those resources prevents the other group from obtaining them. Sherif, Harvey, White and Hood (1961) argued that intergroup conflict (i.e. conflict between groups) occurs when two groups are in competition for limited resources. Sherif et al added that there is a lot of evidence that when people compete for scarce resources (e.g. jobs, land, etc.) there is a rise in hostility between groups. Realistic conflict theory can help in analyzing drivers of the conflict. It is a theory which suggests that prejudices can raise competition between groups for scarcely available resources, power, or territory. The theory states that whenever two groups are seeking the same resources, it will lead to conflict. Resource scarcity, climate, and resource depletion could impact the decision-making of parties. Pressures of climate change and poor economic performance could weaken states and make the population more vulnerable, which reduces the capacity to manage conflict. Different beliefs, prejudice, and discrimination between groups can potentially initiate conflicts between Fulani herders and farmers.

Interestingly, Schofield (2017) just as RGCT argues that competition for desired, but limited resources creates intergroup conflict. He also argues that cooperation in pursuit of superordinate goals, mutually desired outcomes that are unobtainable without such cooperation, has the potential over time to reduce inter-group conflict and to create positive relations among

members. Hence, it follows that the realistic group conflict theory is more relevant in proving the fact that competition for access to natural resources between farmers and herders gives rise to conflict. It sets the background for the origin of the conflict in terms of access to the means of production. At the same time, it stressed the need for interdependence of both the Fulani herdsmen and crop farmers on the use of common resources as well as specialized areas.

However, there is clear demarcation between different types of conflicts in Fulani herdsmen-Farmer relations. According to Hagberg, cited in Tonah (2002, He differentiates between disputes among individuals and groups, conflict of interest and violent conflicts. While dispute refers to disagreement between two or more persons or groups, violent conflict involves mayhem, the destruction and killing of persons and livestock, arising from a dispute. Every farming system, such as the nomadic cattle herding, has a boundary, which separates it from the larger system, the environment. The boundary represents the limits in the larger system. Fulani herders increasingly compete with Farmers for farmland, pastures, water, trees and the use of rangeland in general.

4. METHODOLOGY

The population of this study covered the Fulani Herdsmen and the Crop farmers in three states: Ekiti, Ondo and Osun States in the South-West Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. Multi-stage random sampling technique was used to select respondents from the Crop Farmers and Fulani herdsmen to form the sample frame for the research and was supported with snowball sampling technique, due to the nature of the problem and the group involved.

4.1 Location of the Study

The study was carried out in three selected states located in the Southwest Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. They are: Ekiti State, which consists of 16 local governments, South West Nigeria, which consists of 18 local governments and Osun State, which consists of 30 local governments.

4.2 Area of The Study

For the purpose of this study, two local governments per senatorial district were selected from each state, purposively.

These local government include Ede South and Ede North (Osun West), Ayedade and Orolu (Osun Central), Ife South and Ife North (Osun East), Akoko Southwest and Ose (Ondo North), Ifedore and Idanre (Ondo Central), Odigbo and Ile Oluji (Ondo South), Efon and Ijero (Ekiti central), GBonyi and Emure (Ekitit south), Ilejemeje and Oye (Ekiti North).

Table 1: design outlay for selected study area

S/N	State	Senatorial District	Local Government	Total Number Of Local Government Selected	Total
1	Ondo	Ondo South	Odigbo, Ileoluji	2	6
		Ondo North	Ose, Akoko S/W Idanre, Ifedore	2	
		Ondo Central		2	
2	Osun	Osun West	Ede South, Ede North	2	6
		Osun East	Ife South, Ife North	2	
		Osun Central	Aiyedade, Orolu	2	
3	Ekiti	Ekiti North	Ilejemeje, Oye	2	6
		Ekiti South	Gbonyin, Emure	2	
		Ekiti Central	Efon, Ijero	2	
	3	9	18	18	18

4.3 Reason For The Study Area

The eighteen selected local government of the study area in the three states were selected because they have large land, wide range of farming settlement and geographical contiguity to the northern states.

4.4 Sample Frame/Participant

For the purpose of this research, 25 Fulani Herdsmen and 25 Crop Farmers were selected across the three states: Ekiti, Ondo and Osun States, making 75 fulani Herdsmen and 75 Crop Farmers. On the whole, 150 sample size from the targeted population will be selected, as shown below:

Table 2: Sample Size with Percentage

S/N	Population Characteristics	States Selected in South West Zone			Sample Size	% of the Population
		Ekiti State	South West Nigeria	Osun State		
1	Fulani Herdsmen	25	25	25	75	50%
2	Crop Farmers	25	25	25	75	50%
TOTAL		50	50	50	150	100%

Source: Author's calculation (2024)

4.5 Interview

The respondents, who were not able to read or write were assisted by research assistants through interview method in the selected state for the study.

4.6 Interview Methods of Data Collection

For the purpose of this study the researcher accessed some relevant government documents, magazines, books, journals to get relevant secondary materials or information that was useful to provide answers to the research questions and to support the primary data. Using the primary method, the researcher adopted the five-points Likert-Style rating scale questionnaire method to obtain information from respondents. The Likert-Style rating scale questionnaire design enabled the researcher to ask respondents on how strongly they agree or disagree with a statement or series of statements on a 5-point scale, e.g. strongly agree (4), agree (3), disagree (2), strongly disagree (1). In addition, a number of methods was used to achieve fair and improve response returns of the data collection instrument. For example, from the Fulani Herdsmen and the Crop Farmers, the researchers worked with research assistants who are educated and could communicate in affected languages to interpret the contents of the research instrument in the targeted group's native language. This help the researcher to retrieve the research instrument almost immediately. The researchers spent one week each in the three states where samples were drawn to allow proper coverage of the proposed sample.

4.7 Data Analysis technique

The researcher made use of simple percentage method to analyze the data gathered during the field work.

4.8 Expected findings

The research study is expected to:

- (i) Reveal the causes of Fulani herdsmen and farmer conflicts in southwest geopolitical zone
- (ii) Show the effect of the conflicts on the economic growth and development.
- (iii) Reveal the effect of the conflicts on the security of life and property of the citizen
- (iv) Indicates the effectiveness of current mechanisms put in place to curb the conflict

4.9 Expected Contribution

Importantly, the study's recommendations would serve as a policy guide for the policymakers to address the Fulani herdsmen Crop Farmers' conflict in Southwest Nigeria and in other geopolitical zones of the country and neighboring countries Governments experiencing similar problem in their territories may want to adopt same. It would also serve as a source of reference material for researchers who will embark on related research topic in the future. This study would also broaden the knowledge of the researcher on conflict and mechanism for resolving conflict.

4.10 Field Work**4.10.1 Demographic Information of Respondents****Table 3: Gender Distribution of Respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	320	83.0

Table 4: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age Range	Frequency	Percentage
18-25 years	0	0
26-32 years	35	9.0
33-39 years	77	20.0
40-46 years	250	65.0
47years and above	25	6.0
Total	387	100.0

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 4 shows the age distribution of the respondents. The table shows that none of them were between the ages of 18 to 25 years, 35(9.0%) of them were between 26 to 32 years, 77(20.0%) of them were between the ages 33 to 39 years, 250(65.0%) of them were between the ages 40 to 46 years while the remaining 25(6.0%) were 47 years old and above.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents based on Employment

Employment Status	Frequency	Percentage
Employed	80	21.0
Not Employed	307	79.0
Total	387	100.0

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 5 shows the distribution of the respondents by employment status. The table shows that 80(21.0%) of the respondents were employed, while the remaining 307(79.0%) were not employed.

4.10.2 Causes of Fulani Herdsmen and Crop Farmers Conflicts in South West Nigeria

Answers to Research Question1:What are the causes of the Fulani herdsmen and Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria?

Table 6: Disrespect for government policy and laws on grazing, lack of strategies and programe to disarm herdsmen of dangerous weapons and inability of security apparatus to fish out the miscreant.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	40	10.0	10.0	10.0
Disagree	27	7.0	7.0	17.0
Undecided	0	0.0	0.0	17.0
Agree	112	29.0	29.0	46.0
Strongly Agree	208	54.0	54.0	100.0
Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 6 shows that out of the 387 respondents, 40 (10%) of them strongly disagreed that disrespect for government policy and laws on grazing, lack of strategies and programe to disarm herdsmen of dangerous weapons and inability of security apparatus to fish out the miscreant caused the Fulani herdsmen and Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria, 27(7.0%) also disagreed with this position. None were undecided. However, 112 persons (29.0%) agreed, while 208(54.0%) strongly agreed. This implies that disrespect for government policy and laws on grazing, lack of strategies and programe to disarm herdsmen of dangerous weapons and inability of security apparatus to fish out the miscreant caused the Fulani herdsmen and Crop Farmers Conflict in South West Nigeria,

Table 7: Lack of enforcement of the establishment of ranches laws to guide behaviours.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	80	21.0	21.0	21.0
Disagree	62	16.0	16.0	37.0
Undecided	40	10.0	10.0	47.0
Agree	19	5.0	5.0	52.0
Strongly Agree	186	48.0	48.0	100.0
Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 7 shows that of the 387 respondents, 80(21.0%) of them strongly disagreed that the lack of enforcement of the establishment of ranches laws to guide behaviours, caused the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria. 62(16.0%) also disagreed with this position. However, 40 persons (10.0%) were undecided, while 19 persons (5.0%) agreed that the lack of enforcement of the establishment of ranches laws to guide behaviours, caused the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria. Also, 186 respondents (48.0%) strongly agreed as well. These responses show that the cause of the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria is due to lack of enforcement of the establishment of ranches laws to guide behaviours.

Table 8: Destruction and grazing on crops.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Disagree	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Undecided	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Agree	207	54.0	54.0	54.0
Strongly Agree	180	46.0	46.0	100.0
Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 8 shows that of the 387 respondents, none of them strongly disagreed and none disagreed with the position that Destruction and grazing on crops, caused the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria. None were undecided. However, 207 persons (54.0%) agreed, and 180(46.0%) strongly agreed with this position. These responses show that the Destruction and grazing on crops cause of the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria.

4.10.3 Effects of Conflicts on Fulani Herdsmen and Crop Farmers’ Livelihood in South West Nigeria

Answer to Research Question2: What are the effects of the conflict on the livelihood of Fulani herdsmen and Crop Farmers in South West Nigeria?

Table 9: Demoralized due to loss of human and animal lives by both parties.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	60	15.0	15.0	15.0
Disagree	20	5.0	5.0	20.0
Undecided	0	0.0	0.0	20.0
Agree	200	52.0	52.0	72.0
Strongly Agree	107	28.0	28.0	100.0
Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 9 shows that of the 387 respondents, 60(15.0%) of them strongly disagreed that the effect of the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers on their livelihood in South West Nigeria was due to the loss of human and animal lives in the conflict, both parties were it demoralized. 20 persons (5.0%) disagreed, and none were undecided. However, 200 respondents (52.0%) agreed. Also, 107(28.0%) strongly agreed as well. These responses show that. Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria have a demoralizing effect on both parties' livelihood due to the loss of human and animal lives.

Table 10: Loss of products in the storage.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	78	20.0	20.0	20.0
Disagree	20	5.0	5.0	25.0
Undecided	7	2.0	2.0	27.0
Agree	242	63.0	63.0	90.0
Strongly Agree	40	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 10 shows that of the 387 respondents, 78(20.0%) of them strongly disagreed that the effect of Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers' conflict on their livelihood in South West Nigeria was that the conflict led to the loss of products in storage. 20(5.0%) also disagreed with this position, and 7 person (2.0%) were undecided. However, 242 persons (63.0%) agreed, and 40 respondents (10.0%) strongly agreed as well. These responses show that the loss of products in the storage constituted the effect of the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict on both parties' livelihoods in South West Nigeria.

Table 11: Scarcity of agricultural products leading to an increase in the price of food in the market where they both patronized.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	50	13.0	13.0	13.0
Disagree	13	3.0	3.0	16.0
Undecided	0	0.0	0.0	16.0
Agree	94	24.0	24.0	40.0
Strongly Agree	230	60.0	60.0	100.0
Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 11 shows that of the 387 respondents, 50(13.0%) of them strongly disagreed that the effect of Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict on their livelihood in South West Nigeria was that the conflict led to the Scarcity of agricultural products leading to an increase in the price of food in the market where they both patronized. 13(3.0%) also disagreed with this position, and none were undecided. However, 94 persons (24.0%) agreed, and 230 respondents (60.0%) strongly agreed as well. These responses show that in South West Nigeria, the Scarcity of agricultural products leading to an increase in the price of food in the market where they both patronized constituted the effect of the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict on both parties' livelihood.

4.4 Effectiveness of the Mechanisms to Resolve the Fulani Herdsmen and Crop Farmers' Conflicts in South West Nigeria

Answer to Research Question3: What are the effectiveness of the mechanisms put in place to resolve the Fulani Herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria?

Table 12: Headers and farmers’ traditional heads intervention was effective.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	179	46.0	46.0	46.0
Disagree	208	54.0	54.0	100.0
Undecided	0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Agree	0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Strongly Agree	0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 12 shows that of the 387 respondents, 179(46.0) of them strongly disagreed with the statement that: Headers and farmers’ traditional heads intervention was effective. 208(54.0%) disagreed with this position, none were undecided, none agreed, and none strongly agreed as well. This implies that the majority did not accept that Headers and farmers’ traditional heads' intervention was effective in resolving the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in South West Nigeria.

Table13: Inter-ethnic committees’ intervention was not effective.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	180	47.0	47.0	47.0
Disagree	7	1.0	1.0	48.0
Undecided	0	0.0	0.0	48.0
Agree	200	52.0	52.0	100.0
Strongly Agree	0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 13 shows that of the 387 respondents, 180(47.0) of them strongly disagreed with the statement that: Inter-ethnic committees’ intervention was not effective. 7(1.0%) also disagreed with this position, and none were undecided. However, 200 persons (52.0%) agreed, and none

strongly agreed. This implies that the majority accepted that Inter-ethnic committees’ intervention was not effective in resolving the Fulani Herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in southwest Nigeria.

Table 14: Headers and farmers Associations intervention was effective.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	69	18.0	18.0	18.0
Disagree	250	65.0	65.0	83.0
Undecided	68	17.0	17.0	100.0
Agree	0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Strongly Agree	0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	387	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author's Calculation 2024

Table 14 shows that of the 387 respondents, 69(18.0%) of them strongly disagreed with the statement that: The herders and farmers Associations intervention was effective. 250 persons (65.0%) disagreed with this position, and 68 persons (17.0%) were undecided. However, none agreed, and none strongly agreed as well. This implies that the majority did not accept that Headers and farmers Associations' intervention was effective in resolving the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in southwest Nigeria.

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The Fulani herdsmen-Farmers conflict is one of the national security issues in Nigeria, constituting a serious threat not only to lives and properties but to food and livestock production in the country. The main aim of this study was to examine the effects of the Fulani herdsmen-crop Farmers' conflict on livelihood in southwest Nigeria and the effectiveness of the mechanism put in place to resolve the conflict. Specifically, the study was to explore the causes of Fulani herdsmen, and Crop Farmers conflict in southwest Nigeria, identify the effects of the conflict on the livelihood of Fulani herdsmen and crop Farmers in southwest Nigeria as well as examine the effectiveness of the mechanism put in place to resolve the Fulani herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in southwest Nigeria. The study findings are as follows that:

1. The causes of Fulani herdsmen and crop farmers conflict in southwest Nigeria are: disrespect for government policy and laws on grazing, lack of strategies and programmes to disarm herders of dangerous weapons, the inability of the security apparatus to fish out the miscreant, lack of enforcement of the establishment ranches laws to guide behaviours, lack of deliberate plans to enlighten and mobilize the parties to understand the ecology and

the resources available in the localities, herders indiscriminate bush and crop burning, insufficient resources like grazing fields and farm lands, destruction and grazing on crops, encroachment of cattle routes, contamination of streams by cattle and harassment of herders by host communities youths.

2. The effects of the conflict on the livelihood of Fulani herdsmen and Crop Farmers in southwest Nigeria are: The parties in conflict are demoralized due to loss of human and animal lives by both parties, loss of houses and properties, destruction of farm crops and yields, reduce access to safe food and nutrition, loss of products in the storage, scarcity of agricultural products leading to increase in price of food in the market where they both patronized, increased fear and tension due to acquisition and proliferation weapons/arms, reduced the quality of social relationship by creating fear and distrust, sexual harassment, denied women access to their source of livelihood, reduced the output and income of crop farmers/herders, displacement of herder, farmers and animals, increased poverty within and amongst the herders and crop farmers, becomes unproductive due to general atmosphere of siege and social tension and increased social insecurity.
3. None of the mechanisms put in place to resolve the Fulani Herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in southwest Nigeria is effective.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on this research, It is obvious that the causes of the Fulani herdsmen and Crop farmers conflict in southwest Nigeria and the negative effects of the conflict on the livelihood of Fulani herdsmen and Crop Farmers are well known to both parties. However, this study also argues that none of the mechanisms put in place to resolve the conflict was effective, including the Herders' and Farmers' traditional heads' intervention, Herders and Farmers associations intervention, government-gazetted grazing reserves, educational campaigns to increase awareness and compliance with grazing reserves policy and laws, a three-tier farmer-herdsmen conflict management committee set up, and community security operatives, inter-ethnic committees' intervention, government settlement intervention for both parties to calm tension, state ban on open grazing, government stock grazing reserves and water reservoirs along stock routes and public enlightenment campaigns, seminars and symposia to sensitize the farmers and herdsmen on the negative effect of the crises.

5.3 Recommendations

The following are recommended to resolve the conflict and to stop further consequences or effects on Farmers/Herders in southwest Nigeria.

1. Disrespect for government policy and laws on grazing is one of the factors identified in this study as causes of the conflict, which has implications for enforcement. Therefore, the enforcement agencies should ensure strict compliance with grazing laws, and violators should be made to face the consequences of the law without discrimination.
2. There is a need to constitute a well-fortified State-Based Taskforce whose sole responsibilities would be to monitor, arrest and disarm herders and farmers who carry dangerous weapons without licenses to do so. Their tasks should also cover the arrest of herders and farmers who indiscriminately engaged in bush and crop burning and youths who harass herders in host communities.

3. The existing mechanisms put in place to resolve the Fulani Herdsmen-Crop Farmers conflict in southwest Nigeria include Herders and Farmers' traditional heads intervention, Headers and Farmers associations intervention, a three-tier farmer-herdsmen conflict management committee set up, community security operatives, inter-ethnic committees' intervention, government settlement intervention for both parties to calm tension should be reviewed to identify their weakness and strengthen them become more effective on their roles.
4. There is a need to recruit more best available grassroots men into AMATEKUN, who will be able to function adequately well towards achieving the vision and purpose of establishing the agency.

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