
Appraisal of the Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria

Boris Happy Odalonu

Department of Political Science Federal College of Education,
Eha-Amufu, Enugu State

Email: boris2nice@gmail.com. +2348185029445

Abstract: *The study examined the causes and socio-economic effects of farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria with particular reference to Uzo-Uwani local Government Area of Enugu. The study was anchored on climate change theory and survey research design was adopted for the study. The primary data for the study was generated through structured questionnaire and indepth interview. Eight communities that were affected by the conflicts were purposively sampled. The study revealed that the immediate causes of the conflict were destruction of farmlands, contamination of streams by the herders' cattle and cattle rustling by farmers. The remote causes include competition for land and water resources and government ineffective environmental policy. The conflicts led to loss of lives, loss of houses and other properties and loss of crops, loss of cattle, reduction in food and animal production by both farmers and herder, displacement of farmers and herders and rise in tension and volatile inter-group relations amongst the farmers and herders. The study recommended that conflict resolution mechanism should be established in those communities that are prone to herders-farmers clashes, there should be an established database of Fulani herdsmen in order to identify the herders in every community across the country, there should be sensitization of the farmers and herdsmen on peaceful co-existence and cooperation.*

Keywords: *conflict, farmers, herders, effects, Enugu-Nigeria*

1. Introduction

As Nigeria is still reeling from the Boko Haram insurgency and its numerous atrocities, the country plays host to another terrorist group yet unrecognized, Fulani herdsmen. Little wonder, the Global Terrorism Index [ranked](#) the Fulani herdsmen the fourth deadliest terrorist group in the world in 2014 (Nwosu, 2017). Nomadic cattle grazers have been named as one of the deadliest terror groups in the world comparable to Boko Haram, ISIS, the Taliban and Al-Shabaab (Sun, 2015; Eyekpimi, 2016; Crisis Group, 2017). The group has rack enough havoc to be acknowledged by the global community as the fourth deadliest group in the world. The Fulani militants, as they come to be known, is made of Fulani or Fula ethnic group, a tribe of over 20 million people, 70% of home and Nomadic grazers, who are native of at least seven west African countries (Udoh, 2014).

Historically, Fulani pastoralist has grazed in the lands around the regions of West Africa partly because of the environmental conditions that limit the amount of land for agricultural purposes leading to less intense competition for lands between herders and farmers. However, after recurrent drought in the Sahel regions, Fulani pastoralist has gradually moved South ward to the Guinea Savannah of the tropical rain forest areas and resulting to competition for grazing routes with farmers. Fulani pastoralist started migrating into the northern Nigeria through the Senegambia region around the 13th and the 14th century. After the Usman Danfodio Jihad, the Fulani became integrated into the Hausa culture of Northern Nigeria (Sater, 2013).

Due to the peculiarities of the activities of the herdsmen who move from one place to another in search of pastures, in this process, the herdsmen has reportedly encountered cattle rustlers and made complains to the relevant communities who failed to investigate the issue, which they say prompted them to be carrying arms about. During their journey, they frequently trespass farmlands owned by

locals in their host communities, destroying crops and valuables. Attempts by farmers to prevent them from causing havoc are met with stiff and violent resistance. Most times, the farmers are overpowered, injured, and killed while others are evicted from their homes. Sometimes, they are accused of taking these opportunities to steal, rape, raze houses and kill innocent members of the communities they pass through (Adetula et.al, 2016; Nwosu, 2017).

The tension between Fulani herdsmen and farming communities has been in existence for many years, but has seen a dramatic escalation in recent times to include attacks, kidnapping and killing by Nomads. Between 2010 and 2013, Fulani militants killed about 80 people in total, but by 2014, they have killed 1,229 people. In February 2016, about [300 Agatu indigenes](#) in four communities were massacred, while some 7,000 were displaced. Some reports suggest [about 500 deaths](#) in ten Agatu communities at the hands of suspected herdsmen in early 2016. These killings were accompanied by the destruction of houses and other property as well as allegations of rape. According to a [leader of the Fulani](#), the attacks were reprisals against the Agatu people for killing a prominent Fulani man and stealing his cattle in 2013 (Nwosu, 2017). Benue, Taraba, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kaduna, Enugu and katsina states have being the most hit of late having suffered devastating attacks by the Fulani herdsmen with a heavy toll in human lives and properties (Sunday, 2016).

The Fulani herdsmen crisis remains a major issue in Nigeria. So far, thousands have been killed and many more have been expelled from their homes and the Nigerian Government have not appear willing to initiate any forceful action against them, rather, they are requesting for piece of land from states in order to provide rampaging herdsmen with permanent grazing grounds. Before now, the herdsmen have been known to rack havoc in certain communities in Nigeria, but now the rate at which they commit these crimes has increased exponentially (wikipedia.org, 2016).

*Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders
Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria*

Concerns have been raised as to the true identity of those behind the attacks, many with dissenting views believe that they maybe the members of Boko Haram sect, masquerading as Fulani herdsmen. A few others including the Nigerian military have said they are herdsmen from other parts of Africa not Fulani's while the latter maybe admissible due to porous Nigeria borders and poor immigration surveillance, especially in Northern part of the country, it is difficult to co-relate the activities of Boko-Haram terrorist to those of Fulani herdsmen.

2. Statement of the Problem

The Fulani herdsmen armed with sophisticated weapons usually attack their target communities at the time they are most vulnerable such as mid-night or on Sundays when they are in their churches, killing people indiscriminately, mostly women and children, burning houses and looting properties. The attacks by Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria have been so alarming that people in the country are living in fear because no one knows when they are coming to invade the community with pains. What increasingly baffles the masses is the acquisition of sophisticated weapons when they claim to be Nomadic cattle rearers

In recent times, thousands of lives have been destroyed and properties worth millions of naira destroyed and several others seriously injured in Nigeria most especially in Uzo- Uwani Local government Area of Enugu State. Uzo-uwani local Government Area have experienced bloody herdsmen attack on April 25th, 2016 in Ukapapabi-Nimbo. Seven Nimbo communities and villages were invaded and scores massacred by over five hundred heavily armed Fulani herdsmen in the early hours of that same day. During the attack, over 40 persons were killed, 1 Catholic Church, 11 houses were burnt and scores of persons were injured, vehicles and motorcycles were destroyed. Attack on Nimbo followed similar attack on Abbi another Uzo-Uwani community where a brother and a sister were reportedly killed instantly and 19 persons declared

missing. Whilst seven houses and motorcycles were raised down early in February, 2016 (Buzz, 2016; Mamah et al, 2016; Nwosu, 2017).

Reacting to the attack at Nimbo communities, the traditional ruler of Abbi community, lamented that Abbi community had over the years suffered untold hardship in the hands of Fulani herdsmen, who he accused of maiming and gang-raping their women at farmlands” in addition to robbing and kidnapping their people or stealing and destroying cash crops in the community. He said: “This is the fourth time Fulani herdsmen have invaded our community in three years. The losses are too much for us to bear. “The remaining people of the community have now taken refuge in neighbouring communities due to fear of another invasion by the herdsmen who do not give signs before striking. “We have made several appeals to the Police, Uzo-Uwani Local Government and Enugu State government demanding for the Fulani herdsmen to leave our community, but nothing has happened (Mamah et al, 2016).

Investigating the actual causes of these clashes/attacks, its effects and the measures that can be adopted to avoid future re-occurrences of the conflicts are the task which the researchers intend to achieve in this research. Thus the main thrust of this study is to:

- i. Find out why herdsmen attacked the communities in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State.
- ii. Examine the effects of herdsmen attacks in communities especially Uzo- Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State.
- iii. Suggest ways of curbing incessant herdsmen attacks on communities across the country.

2.1. Literature Review - Conceptual and Theoretical Discourse

Farmers-Herders Conflict in Nigeria

Farmer-herdsmen conflict has remained the most preponderant resource-use conflict in Nigeria (Rashid 2012). The various studies in conflict between farmers and herders shows that land related issues especially over grazing fields account for the highest percentage of the conflict .Thus, conflict between farmers and herders in Nigeria 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 (Baba and Abeysinghe, 2017). On the contrary, 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). Since herder and farmer groups have very different values, customs, physical and cultural characteristics, disputes between them in communities across the North Central, South East, South West and South South Regions/Zones of Nigeria are frequently characterized as ethnic conflict. Mostly, conflict in Nigeria arises from religious, ethnic and political differences, poverty, resource scarcity or combination of all. In general, conflict between farmers and herders in Nigeria has become a very widespread occurrence due to resource scarcity.

Theoretical Perspective

Several theories have been put forth in an attempt to explain the causes or and the existence of farmer-herder conflicts that have characterised the Nigerian state for decades. One of the frameworks is climate change, which postulates that structural factors that put a strain on natural resources push people to stay together. Initially, the phenomenon of climate change arose as an environmental issue and an energy problem before its perception as a security threat. The current climate change and global warming have resulted in unprecedented environmental crisis across the world (Enete &

Amusa, 2010; Okwor, 2016). The risks associated with these changes are very uncertain, more so given that the situation is expected to worsen in the coming century (Ogbo et al., 2013).

Researchers, Okoli et al. (2014), Odoh and Abbass (2012) relate the causes of conflict to the global climate change and the contending desertification and aridity that has reduced arable and grazing lands, forcing pastoralist to move southwards in search of pasture for their livestock. Climate change-induced rainfall shifting patterns/amount and desertification reduces crop lands, and farmers have to follow these patterns, leading to overlap on grazing lands. The Fulbe herders in Nigeria, for example are faced with rapidly vanishing grass, forcing them to switch from the Bunaji cattle breed, which depends on grass, to the Sokoto Gudali, which readily browses (Fiki et.al, 2004).

2.2. Methodology

The researchers adopted survey research design for this study. The study was conducted in Uzo-Uwani local Government Area in Enugu State. Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area consists of many communities/villages such as Ekwuru, Nimbo-Ngwoko, Ugwuijoro, Ebor, Enugu-Nimbo, Umuome, Ugwuachara, Nrobo, Abbi, Ugbene, Nkpologun, Uvuru, Akpugu-Ezedike, Adani, Ogurugu, Asaba, Igga, Ojor, Adaba, Nkume, Ukpata, Echenwo. Out of these communities/villages, 8 of them that have recorded high incidence of farmer-herdsmen clashes were purposively selected for the study. These are: Nimbo Ngwoko, Ugwuijoro, Ekwuru, Ebor, Enugu Nimbo, Umuome, Ugwuachara and Abbi. In each community/village, 12 farmers and 5 herders were randomly selected making a total of 17 respondents per community. Also, 44 respondents were randomly selected from the local government council. In all, 180 respondents were selected for the quantitative data collection. 10 key informants were also interviewed for the study. Thus, the instruments for data collection were questionnaire and interview. Out of 180 questionnaires administered 163 were

*Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders
Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria*

retrieved and were used for the quantitative analysis of the study. The quantitative data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software while the qualitative data was analyzed using a manual content analysis. A descriptive analysis of data was undertaken using univariate frequency distributions, simple percentage and mean.

2.3. Data Presentation and Analysis

Respondents were asked to identify the major causes of conflict, the effects and ways of curbing the conflict and their responses were graduated on a 4 point Likert scale form with strongly agree (4), agree (3), strongly disagree (2), and disagree (1). The responses obtained were analyzed to obtain the mean response to each item. The cutoff point was the mean of the cumulative points 1-4 which was calculated as 2.50. n = 163. Cut off Score: 2.50

Table 1: Description of the respondents' personal characteristics

Boris Happy Odalonu

Variables	Farmers		Herdsmen		Others		Overall percentage %
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Sex							
Male	58	36	29	18	29	18	72
Female	23	14	9	5	15	9	28
Age							
20-29	20	12	19	12	24	15	39
30-39	24	14	11	7	12	7	28
40-49	18	11	8	5	5	3	19
50-59	13	8	0	0	3	2	10
60>	6	4	0	0	0	0	4
Marital Status							
Single	15	9	10	6	15	9	59
Married	49	30	27	18	18	11	24
Divorced	4	2	0	0	7	4	6
Widow	10	6	1	1	4	2	9
Widower	3	2	0	0	0	0	2
Level of education							
No formal education	0	0	16	10	0	0	10
Islamic/Arabic	32	20	2	1	7	4	25
Primary	39	24	0	0	18	11	35
Secondary	10	6	0	0	19	12	18
Tertiary							
Religion							
Christian	73	45	0	0	33	20	65
Muslim	2	1	38	23	4	3	27
Traditional	6	4	0	0	7	4	8

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 1 show that out of 163 respondents 72% of them are male while 28% of them are female. Out of this number of respondents, a total of 39% are within the ages of 20-29, 28% fall within the ages of 30-39, 19%) fall within 40-49, 10% of them fall within 50-59 while only 4% of them fall between the ages of 60 and above. As regard the marital status, table 1 also reveal that 24% of the respondents are single, 59% are married, 6%) are divorced, 9% are widows while 2% of them are widowers. In terms of educational qualification, 10% of them had no formal education, 12% had Islamic/Arabic education, 25% had only primary education, and 35% of them had secondary education while 18% had tertiary education. Also, table 1 reveals that 65% of respondents are Christians, 27 are Muslims and 8 of them are Traditional.

*Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders
Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria*

Table 2: Perceived Causes of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in Uzuwani Communities of Enugu State

S/N	Causes of Conflict	Farmers Mean score	Herdsmen Mean score	Others Mean score
1	Killing of cattle that wander into farmlands by the farmers	2.09	3.07	2.41
2.	The failure to investigate and arrest cattle rustlers by the communities	2.00	3.13	2.11
	Competition for land and water resources	3.09	2.61	3.14
3.	Destruction of farmlands/farm crops by Fulani herds/cattle	3.28	1.98	3.02
4	Contamination of the streams by the cattle	3.19	2.01	2.86
5.	Government ineffective environmental policy	3.09	2.56	3.14

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 2 indicates that all the respondents accepted the fact that the causes of farmers-herdsmen conflicts were competition for land and water resources and government ineffective environmental policy as their mean scores are above 2.50. The farmers and others accepted the fact that the major causes of the clashes were destruction of their farmlands and contamination of their streams by cattle while the herdsmen agreed that the major causes of the conflicts were killing and rustling of their cattle by the people in the community.

These results conformed to the findings from the interviewee.

According to the interviewee,

“There are various causes of the attack but the major cause of the attack was the killing of the cattle, also another interviewee said that destruction of crops was the major cause of the attack in the community”

“The global warming has caused a massive loss in grazing fields causing the herdsmen to encroach farms. The basic cause of the clashes is that the herdsmen need access to pasture to graze their livestock. However, many times, their cattle get unruly, trample and destroy crops cultivated land, causing severe loss to farmers. The herdsmen must feed their cattle; the farmers must plant their crops undisturbed. That is the dilemma”.

“More than 10 acres of farmland were completely ravaged by cattle belonging to the herdsmen. In the process of preventing further damage to our farmland we chased away the cattle, and then the herdsmen accused us of killing their cattle and waged war against us”

“Some of our people were previously killed in this community, coupled with instances of missing cattle, stolen and killed by the community people and the community heads and security agents failed to help us”.

Table 3. The Effect of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflicts/Clashes

S/N	Effects of farmers-herdsmen conflicts	Farmers	Herdsmen	Others
		Mean score	Mean score	Mean score
1	Loss of lives	3.34	1.90	3.11
2.	Loss of homes and household properties	3.29	2.33	2.96
3.	Reduction in food and animal production by both farmers and herders	3.11	3.02	3.09
4	Scarcity of food items	3.03	2.60	2.98
5.	Displacement of farmers and herders	3.22	3.04	3.14
6	Loss of crops and increase in the price of commodities	3.28	1.80	3.24
7	Loss of cattle and increase of the price of meat	1.98	3.29	2.45
8	Rise in tension and volatile inter-group relations amongst the farmers and herders	3.22	2.56	3.06

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria

Table 3 reveals that the farmers, herdsman and others were in agreement in some points as the effects of the clashes. These are: Reduction in food and animal production by both farmers and herders; scarcity of food items; displacement of farmers and herders and rise in tension and volatile inter-group relations amongst the farmers and herders. On the other the farmers and others accepted the fact that the major effects of the clashes include; Loss of lives, loss of houses and other properties and loss of crops and increase in the price of commodities while the herdsman also accepted that the major effects of the conflicts to them were loss of cattle and increase of the price of meat.

What are the socio-economic effects of farmers-herders conflicts? The interview responses to this question are stated below:

“The major effect of the attack on the community was the destruction of lives and property, destruction of farm lands, and also loss of cattle”.

“The activities of Fulani herdsman had over the years led to the killing, maiming, raping of our people and destruction of their farmlands. Now the Fulani herdsman are more daring and walk freely with AK-47 rifles in our communities without being arrested for illegal possession of firearms. Even those Fulani herdsman that were arrested in our community (Nimbo) for killing our people remained unprosecuted by the Northern dominated law enforcement agents”

“We are all worried because they (Fulani herdsman) are still there attacking people. They would just attack, kill people and once people run away from their villages, they steal what they could find and set their houses on fire, and run back to the bush. We are really not safe”

“The Fulani herdsmen came in around 4am when our people were still asleep and unprepared for the attack. Everyone was woken up by the barrage of gunfire, the wailing of women and children who were running frantically for safety in the mist of the confusion”

Government Efforts to Curb the Menace

How has the security operatives of the government helped to curb the herdsmen attacks? The interview responses with respondents are captured in the excerpts below:

“Security operatives are biased in handling issues between herdsmen and farmers in the state, they are not helping to solve the problem. For instance, they were informed of the intended attack by the Fulani herdsmen in my community but they never took measure to nip the attack before they eventually attacked us on April 24, 2016. Since Buhari became the president who is also a Fulani, and a member of cattle rearer association, the spate of Fulani herdsmen attacks have increased and the president have not taken any action against them. In fact they commit these atrocities with total impunity and without any fear of the law enforcement agencies or security forces”

“The Federal Government is treating the invasion of communities and killings of innocent Nigerians by the rampaging Fulani herdsmen with kid’s gloves. The Federal Government is yet to give the attacks the serious attention they deserved. I urge and enjoin the South East state governors to devise measure to protect lives and property in the zone”

“Since Buhari became president Fulani men have killed thousands of people with no known single arrest made, and the sad part of it is if any of these defenceless tribes try to protect themselves from these blood thirsty mentally incapacitated, dirty and brainless fulani men, the security men will swoop into action within seconds

***Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders
Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria***

to arrest and prosecute these defenceless individuals trying to do the needful since they are seen as animals that can be slaughtered anytime and not humans. God save this country from the hands of the evil doers and punish them with their entire generations”

“They only know how to prevent, forcefully, the victims (farmers, villagers and their families) from retaliating to defend themselves from the terrorists (Fulani herdsmen terrorists), but they always fail, timidly, at preventing the terrorists from perpetrating their terrorism on the host”.

“President Buhari is only interested in the safety of Fulani herdsmen. Rather than the president ordering the relevant security agencies to ensure that the perpetrators of this sordid act be rounded up and made to face the law, he directed them to make sure that reprisal attack should be prevented at all cost - thereby shielding and protecting the murderous Fulanis. Buhari has given his Fulani kinsmen license to kill”

Table 4. Ways of Curbing Incessant Herdsmen Attacks

S/ N	Ways of resolving the conflict	Farmers	Herdsmen	Others
1	The community should provide adequate grazing land for herdsmen	2.01	3.14	2.32
2.	The federal government should support the states to assist cattle owners to set up ranches.	3.33	2.42	3.26
3.	The state and local governments should establish and support community based conflict resolution mechanism in various communities especially those communities that are prone to herders-farmers clashes	3.24	2.96	3.04
4	There should be an established database of Fulani herdsmen in order to identify the herders in every community across the country	3.08	2.68	3.12
5.	The Myetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) should set up a monitoring committee to check the activities of criminal elements among the Fulani herdsmen	3.22	3.04	3.16
6	Herdsmen should be restricted from being in possession of arms and ammunitions and anyone caught with arms should be arrested and prosecuted.	3.33	2.43	3.24
7	There should be sensitization of the farmers and herdsmen on peaceful co-existence and cooperation	3.18	2.89	3.11
8	Federal government should address environmental issues that are driving herders' migration to the south	2.98	3.22	3.06
9	Government and its security operatives should muster the political will to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of the attacks on both sides	3.30	3.02	3.36

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 3 reveals that the farmers, herdsmen and others were in agreement in some of the ways to curb perennial farmers-herdsmen conflicts. These are: The governments should establish and support community based conflict resolution mechanism in various communities especially those communities that are prone to herders-farmers clashes, there should be an established database of Fulani herdsmen in order to identify the herders in every community across

Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria

the country, The Myetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) should set up a monitoring committee to check the activities of criminal elements among the Fulani herdsmen, there should be sensitization of the farmers and herdsmen on peaceful co-existence and cooperation, Federal government should address environmental issues that are driving herders' migration to the south and Government and its security operatives should muster the political will to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of the attacks on both sides. Other other hand, the farmers were in disagreement that the community should provide adequate grazing land for herdsmen while the herdsmen disagreed that the federal government should support the states to assist cattle owners to set up ranches and that herdsmen should be restricted from being in possession of arms and ammunitions and anyone caught with arms should be arrested and prosecuted.

What do you think can bring a lasting solution to the farmers/herdsmen clash/conflict? The interview responses to this question are stated below

“For me, the way to curb the attacks is to make sure that those found wanting of this crime should be dealt with according to the law, also others ways of curbing the attack were that no one should be allowed to hold weapons (guns) without permission and also, sensitization on how to live peacefully should be made”.

“Create ranches in the north east and north west and make the owners of the cattle to pay rent to the state governments. Or create ranches in states that are interested and have ranchers pay commercial rent to their land owners. There is nothing like creating special grazing land. At whose expense? Government cannot continue to bear the cost of private enterprise at tax payers cost and turn round to complain of the cost of running our government when this is not a social service. You cannot continue to subsidize the life and business of some people to the detriment of others”.

“In one way or the other herdsmen services is mostly needed for daily consumption of meat and its product, government should enlighten them in the way that they will recognized their host community as partner not their rivals the most important this is herdsmen should to guided through newly created commission agency to organized them, and let farmer report any damage cause by the herdsmen for either compensation and sanction,let farmer also be sanction whenever the take law into their hands”.

“Believe or not, the fulanis want to take over all of Nigeria. They have access to, and carry, assault rifles. The only way to checkmate the criminal tendencies by the bad ones among them is to allow local vigilantes to buy and use assault rifles too”.

“The Fulani herdsmen attacks did not start today but the question is; were they this daring in their attacks before President Buhari emerged? No. The truth is that only President Buhari can stop his kinsmen from the attacks”

“The herdsmen and their employers should be trained, registered, licensed and finger printed. They should also be compelled to deposit a bond with the licensing agencies so that should the cause damage to person or property, the damages will be taken from the bond after a fair hearing. They should not be allowed to carry heavy fire arms and they should be arrested, prosecuted and sentenced if they intentionally or recklessly cause harm to anyone”

“This country is turning into something unimaginable! whenever the herdsmen initiate an attack to communities where they carry out grazing, the NPF will not sent an intervention squad to stopped them, but when there's a reprisal action from the host communities, the NPF will without hesitation sent their intervention squad to intervene. This action of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is an encouragement to the herdsmen to continue in their killing, raping and destructions of the host communities. My candid

*Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders
Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria*

suggestion is: The NPF should get both the herdsmen and the host communities who initiate or carry out a reprisal attack to jail or detention”

“In the interim, while getting both the trouble-makers - (herdsmen and those involved in the communities) arrested and investigations to follow-up, the best permanent solution so far, is to earmark certain areas in each state of the federation for the establishment of animal ranches and not the creation of grazing zones / areas as presently cunningly canvass by the legislature for the herdsmen to have a free day, especially in the southern part of Nigeria. Anything less than this is preparation for future calamity, especially when the relationship between the crops farmers and the herdsmen are seriously considered as operated in Nigeria”

“Fulani should put the cattle in ranches like it is done in Brazil, USA, Argentina, UK, etc., these countries produce more beef than Nigeria. Fulani people are living in the Stone Age and causing problems all over the place. Nomadic lifestyle is extinct. Somebody should tell them that. If they do not change they will not fit into modern society. Simple solution I will suggest is that the Senate or House of Representative should Pass law that you must own a ranch for you to raise animals. If this done you will see that these killings, kidnappings, rapes, army robberies by the Fulani herdsmen will disappear or reduce”

“Cattle rearing and herdship is a big business at any level in the world. In Nigeria this process has been messed up by the human fatalities associated with the practice (local armed conflicts, road accidents etc). Grazing boundary of land could be provided by the Federal and States and business herdship encouraged to develop ranches within these boundaries. Modality of operation should be guided and supported by Federal and State legislations to stem the frequent fatal clashes of herdsmen and resident communities across the States of the country”

“Majority of these killing usually starts with cattle going to destroy farms at night, when every civilized farmer is at sleep. In the morning all this primitive Fulani herdsmen will denial involvement and from there the situation will begin to take more dangerous dimension. Outlaw nomadic animal husbandry all these destruction of farm lands and killings will end”

2.4. Discussion of findings

On the part of the farmer the major immediate causes of the clashes were destruction of their farmlands and contamination of streams by cattle while the herdsmen agreed that the major causes of the conflicts were killing and rustling of their cattle by the people in the community. However both farmers and herdsmen were of the view that the remote causes of the conflict were competition for land and water resources and government ineffective environmental policy as revealed in table 2.

The conflicts have affected both farmers and herdsmen at different levels. The clashes led to reduction in food and animal production by both farmers and herders; scarcity of food items; displacement of farmers and herders and rise in tension and volatile inter-group relations amongst the farmers and herders, loss of lives, loss of houses and other properties and loss of crops and increase in the price of commodities, loss of cattle and increase of the price of meat.

The ways to curb the conflict, as revealed in table 3 implies that the governments should establish and support community based conflict resolution mechanism in various communities especially those communities that are prone to herders-farmers clashes, there should be an established database of Fulani herdsmen in order to identify the herders in every community across the country, the Myetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) should set up a monitoring committee to check the activities of criminal elements among the Fulani herdsmen, there should be

sensitization of the farmers and herdsmen on peaceful co-existence and cooperation, federal government should address environmental issues that are driving herders' migration to the south and Government and its security operatives should muster the political will to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of the attacks on both sides. Also, the communities should provide adequate grazing land for herdsmen and the federal government should support the states to assist cattle owners to set up ranches and that herdsmen should be restricted from being in possession of arms and ammunitions and anyone caught with arms should be arrested and prosecuted.

3. Conclusion and Recommendations

Famers-herders conflict has continued to expand due to various factors which include changes and expansion of farming and pastoral practices, lack of access to land for farming and grazing, drought, desertification, climate change, etc. These conflicts have caused so many havoc such as loss of lives and properties, loss of farm produce, displacement of people, unnecessary expenditure, poverty and hunger.

As a matter of urgency, some measures have to be taken to ameliorate the situation. Thus, this paper has recommended some measures that would curb or reduce the conflicts between farmers and herders across communities in Nigeria. These include::

- i. There should be an established database of Fulani herdsmen in order to identify the herders in every community across the country.
- ii. Herdsmen should be restricted from being in possession of arms and ammunitions and anyone caught with arms should be arrested and prosecuted.
- iii. Establish cattle-grazing routes and grazing reserves as well as modify the existing itinerant method of cattle rearing to the ranching system which limits the movements of cattle rearers.

- iv. Government and its security operatives should muster the political will to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of the attacks on both sides.
- v. The state and local governments should establish and support community based conflict resolution mechanism in various communities especially those communities that are prone to herders-farmers clashes
- vi. The Myetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) should set up a monitoring committee to check the activities of criminal elements among the Fulani herdsmen.
- vii. Federal government should address environmental issues that are driving herders' migration to the south

4. References

- Abass, I. (2012): "No Retreat No Surrender Conflict for Survival between the Fulani Pastoralist and Farmers in Northern Nigeria", *European Scientific Journal*, 8(1), 331-346.
- Adetula, D. (2016, July 16). Understanding the Fulani herdsmen crisis in Nigeria: Here is everything you need to know. *Ventures Africa*. Retrieved from <http://venturesafrica.com/understanding-the-fulani-herdsmen-crisis-in-nigeria-what-you-need-to-know/>
- Adisa, R. S. (2011). Management of Farmer-herdsmen Conflict in North-Central Nigeria: Implications for Collaboration between Agricultural Extension Service and Other Stakeholders. *Journal of International Agricultural Education and Extension*, 18(1),60-72
- Adisa, R. S. (2012): Land Use Conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen-Implications for Agricultural and Rural Development in Nigeria, Available on: [http://www.intechopen.com/books/rural-development-contemporary-issues-and-practices/land use conflict](http://www.intechopen.com/books/rural-development-contemporary-issues-and-practices/land-use-conflict).

Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria

- Akujobi, C.T. Ebitari, S. & Amuzie, H. O. (2016). Arable Land Resource Conflict in Nigeria, *Journal of Applied Science & Development*, 7(1-2), 39-65
- Audu, S. D. (2013): Conflicts among Farmers and Pastoralists in Northern Nigeria Induced by Freshwater Scarcity, *Developing Country Studies*, 3(12), 23-32.
- Audu, S. D. (2016, April 25th) "Catholic Church, houses burnt as Fulani Herdsmen invade Enugu communities". Vanguard, Retrieved from April 26th, 2016.
- Awogbade, H.Y (September 22nd, 1987) "Olu Falae kidnapped on his 77th birthday". guardian.ng. (September 22, 1987), Retrieved from www.guardian.com.ng on May 25th, 2017.
- Baba, I. & Abeysinghe, C. (2017). Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in the North Central Region of Nigeria (An Analysis of Cause and Effect), *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*, 5(3), 53-62.
- Balogun, A. (2016). The extent of Fulani herdsmen attack in Nigeria Department of Geography, University of Ilorin, 3rd – 12th, July.
- Babajide, J. (2014, March 5) Benue Residents Raise the Alarm Over Influx of Fulani Herdsmen, Nigerian, *Tribune Newspaper* P. 44
- Barnett, J. (2008). Climate Change, Human Security and Violent Conflict. Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and CSERGE, School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, .
- Biermann, F., & Klaus, D. (2004). Global Environmental Change and the Nation State. *Global Environmental Politics*, 4(1), 1-12
- Blench, R. (2010). Conflict between Pastoralists and Cultivators in Nigeria: Review paper prepared for DFID, Nigeria, on the 9th August.
- Clifford, N. et al. (2017, June 20). Herdsmen on rampage as Governments continue to delay, *Vanguard*. Retrieved from <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/06/herdsmen-rampage-govts-continue-delay/>

- Conroy, S. (2014). Land conflicts and lethal violence in Nigeria: Patterns, mapping and evolution (2006-2014)', *INFRA Nigeria*, no. 38.
- Cotula, L; Toulmin, C; and C. Hesse (2004). "Land Tenure and Administration in Africa: Lesson of Experience and Emerging Issues," IIED.
- Crisis Group (2017, September 19). Herders against Farmers: Nigeria's Expanding Deadly Conflict, *Crisis Group Africa Report N°252*
- CPDS (2012) *Report on the Study of Community Level Conflict Management Mechanisms in the Niger Delta, Middle Belt and North East Zones of Nigeria*. Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies (CECOMPS), University of Jos,
- Chukudili M,. (2016). Enugu: Suspected Fulani Herdsmen Attack Ukpabi Nimbo Community of Uzo-Uwani Local Government in April, 2016. Retrieved from www.naij.com
- David, U. (2016, December 25). Herdsmen Attacked and Killed 7 Men and 1 Woman in Sabuwa, Katsina State. *Premium Times Newspaper*, Retrieved from www.premiumtimesonline.com
- Durojaiye, R.(2014, July 8). Challenge of Fulani Herdsmen, Editorial, *DailyIndependence*, P.12
- Eyekepimi, O. (2016, June 21). History of Fulani Herdsmen and Farmers Clashes in Nigeria, *Information Guide Nigeria*, <http://infoguidenigeria.com/fulani-herdsmen-farmers-clashes/>
- Fasona D. and Omojola E. (2016, January 24th) "How Fulani herdsmen abducted, killed Delta monarch". Vanguard (www.vanguardngr.com). Retrieved from May 3rd 2006.
- Fasona, M. J. & Omojola, A. S. (2005). *Climate Change, Human Security and Communal Clashes in Nigeria*. Paper presented at the International Workshop in Human Security and Climate Change, Oslo, Sweden.
- Fiki, C. & Lee, B. (2004): Conflict Generation, Conflict Management and Self-organizing Capabilities in Drought-prone Rural Communities in North-eastern Nigeria: A Case Study. *Journal of Social Development in Africa*, 19(2): 25-48.

*Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders
Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria*

- Flavel, A. (2010). Migration. In V. Ndaruzaniye, L. Lipper, D. Fiot, A. Flavell & J. Clover (Eds.), *Climate Change and Security in Africa: Vulnerability Discussion Paper of Climate Change, Environment and Security (ACCES) Conference Journal of Political Science and Leadership Research*, 2(1), 12-22.
- Gareth, P. (1995). *Redefining Security: The Human Dimension*, Current History Journal.
- Haan, C. (2002): Nigeria Second Fadama Development Project (SFDP). *Project Preparation Mission Report*, Livestock Component, World Bank, pp1-13.
- Hogan, M. O. (2006), *Academic Dictionary of Sociology*, India, Academic Publishers
- Houdret, A., Kramer, A. & Carius, E. (2010). *The Water Security Nexus: Challenges and Opportunities for Development Cooperation*. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
- Hoton. T. F. (1972). *Environment, scarcity, and violence*, Princeton: Michigan University, University Press.
- Iro, I. (1994). *The Fulani Herding System*, Washington: African Development Foundation
- Isah, M. A. (2010, November 18th) "Global Terrorism Index: Nigerian Fulani militants named as fourth deadliest terror group in world". www.independent.co.uk. Retrieved from May 19th, 2010.
- Japhet, C. H. (2017, January 4). Delta State: 5 killed in Abraka and Obiarukwu Communities of Ukwani Local Government Area, Retrieved from www.naij.com
- Ludovica, I. (2015) Nigeria Fulani Militants: Herdsmen Accused of killing 1,200 People in 2014, *International Business Times News* www.internationalbustimes.com.uk, United Kingdom.
- Maduabu, C. (2015, January 2015). Enugu State: 1 Dead as Fulani Herdsmen Attack Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area. *Premium Times*. Retrieved from www.Premiumtimes.com

- Mamah, E., Ndujihe, C., Nkwopara, C. & Ozor, C. (2016, April 26). Bloodbath in Enugu as Fulani Herdsmen Kill 40, *Vanguard*, <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/04/bloodbath-enugu-fulani-herdsmen-kill-40/>
- Mercy Corps (July 2016). Conflict Between Nigerian Rural Communities Takes Enormous Economic Toll. Press Release <https://www.mercycorps.org/pressroom/releases/mercy-corps-conflict-between-nigerian-rural-communitiestakesenormous-economic>
- Nyong, F. & Fiki, D. (2002) Fulani herdsman attack in Nigeria, effects and solutions
- Nwosu, C. (2017, April 23). Between Fulani Herdsmen and Farmers National Security under Buhari, *The Republic*, <http://www.republic.com.ng/aprilmay-2017/fulani-herdsmen-farmers/>
- Ogbo, A, Lauretta, NE, & Ukpere, W. (2013). Risk management and challenges of climate change in Nigeria', *Journal of Human Ecology*, 41(3), 221-235.
- Ofuoku, A. & Isife, B. I. (2010). Causes, Effects and Resolution of Farmers-Nomadic Cattle Herders Conflict in Delta State, Nigeria. *Agricultura Tropica Et Sub Tropica*, 43, (1), 33-41.
- Okeke, O. E. (2014). Conflicts between Fulani Herders and Farmers in Central and Southern Nigeria: Discourse on Proposed Establishment of Grazing Routes and Reserves. *AFRREV IJAH: An International Journal of Arts and Humanities*, 3(1), 66-84.
- Okoli, A.C & Atelhe, G.A. (2014). Nomads against Natives: A political ecology of herder/farmer conflicts in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*, (2), 76-88.
- Okwor, D. (2016). The Political Economy of the Conflict Between the Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen in the Contemporary Era of Climate Change in Nigeria, Master Thesis at the International Institute of Social Studies, Hague, The Netherlands

Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria

- Oluwasegu, A. & Solagberu, A. (2010). An Empirical Phenomenological Psychological Study of Farmer-Herdsman Conflicts in North Central Nigeria. *Journal of Perspectives in Social Sciences*. 2(1),1-27
- Paterson, M. (1996). *Global Warming and Global Politics*. New York: Routledge.
- Purvis, N., & Busby, J. (2008). The Security Implications of Climate Change for the UN System. In Policy Brief for the United Nations and Environmental Security.
- Rashid, S. A. (2012), Land Use Conflict between Farmers and Herdsman- Implications For Agricultural And Rural Development In Nigeria, *Rural Development-Contemporary Issues And Practices*,
Htt:Www.Intechopen.Com/Books/Rural-Development-Contemporary-Issues-And-Practice/Land-Use-Conflict-Between-Farmers-And-Herdsman-Implications-For-Agricultural-And-Rural-Development-
- Reisman, M. (1977) Effect of farmer herder crisis in the world, *European Scientific Journals*.
- Ribot, J.C. & N.L. Peluso (2003) 'A Theory of Access', *Rural Sociology* 68(2): 153-181.
- Sater, E. (2013, September) eight killed, houses razed, many injured as *Fulani herdsmen attack* more Benue communities. Morning star news
- Sawin, J. (2013). Climate Change Poses Greater Security Threat than Terrorism. In *World Watch Institute Journal*, Retrieved from <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/77>,
- Shiklam, J. (2014), Kaduna state: Suspected Fulani Herdsmen Kill 123 in Fresh Attacks in kirem, Zagar kaduna state, *ThisDay Newspaper*, P.23-25
- Stein, C. (May 2016). Farmer-Herder Conflict Rises Across Nigeria. VOA News.<http://www.voanews.com/a/farmer-herder-conflict-rises-acrossnigeria/3326151.html>

Sunday, D. (2016)"Fulani Pastoralists, Indigenous Farmers and the Contest for Land in Northern, Ghana". *Africa Spectrum journals*.

Wikipedia (2017). Conflict. Retrieved from www.wikipedia.com.
October 17, 2017. www.buzz.com.ng (2016) Fulani herdsmen attack in Nigeria.

*Appraisal of The Political and Socio-Economic Effects of Farmers- Herders
Conflict in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria*