

Impact of Farmers-Herders Conflict on Socio-Economic Development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State

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Research Article

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Abstract

This study investigated the impact of farmers-herders conflict on socio economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. The study used survey method to gather the relevant data by structuring three hundred and fifty (350) questionnaires in order to gather some necessary and relevant information from respondents. In other to test the impact on farmers-herders conflict on the residence of the Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State oral interview was also conducted. The qualitative data collected were analysed using content analysis verbatim quotations and thematic analysis. The findings of the study research question one revealed there has been different causes of farmers-herders conflict from various dimension. Using response from the highest number of the respondents, it was found that land dispute, destruction of crops and disregards for local traditional authorities are the major causes of farmers-herders conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. Moreover, the study found that lots of damages were recorded as a result of the conflict between both parties which includes loss of lives, properties, homes etc. This study recommends that Government (policy makers) should set up of administrative machinery for peace and conflict resolution as well as the encouragement of constant dialogue between farmers and herders

1. Background For The Study And Problem Statement

Conflict is a phenomenon that is an important part of human existence and a natural part of our daily lives. Conflicts could be seen as any personal divergence of interest between individuals or groups. Conflicts could also be referred to as behaviour intended to obstruct the achievements of the goals of other persons. Conflicts could manifest in various forms; at home, work or while in transit or in governance and other areas of human endeavours. A conflict may occasionally become confrontational and culminate in physical violence. It can show itself through obvious enmity and hostilities between individuals or in dispute between organized groups of people. Conflict may be easily recognized but not easy to resolve. In other word, conflict is natural in a healthy striving organization or human endeavour and such a scenario needs conflict but if that conflict is not recognized or managed then it can become destructive. In the past, conflicts were overlooked by behavioural scientists partly because it was felt that conflict was damaging to an organization and efforts should be concentrated on measures to create harmony at all times.

Conflict is however now treated as an important aspect in the proper understanding of organizational behaviour. Keghku (2004) asserts that "it has since been realized that not all conflicts are harmful and that perhaps a certain level of conflict is inevitable. The need therefore is to understand the cause of conflict and to develop constructive measures to control and use the energies realized by the conflict. In essence, conflict per se is not bad but it is the way it is managed to reduce its harmful effects and benefit from its good efforts as it applies to pernicious and positive propaganda in public relations parlance.

Herdsman-Farmers conflict is as old as the existence of man. It started from the children (Cain and Abel) of the first man (Adam). Abel was a shepherd and Cain was a farmer according to Bible's account, however, Cain killed Abel in the field out of jealousy. Okoro (2018) averred that herdsman-farmer or

harder-farmer conflicts are conflicts occurring between peasant farmers or subsistence cultivators and nomadic or transhumant live-stock keepers. According to Hagmann (2003), there exist differences between 'herder-herder' conflicts and 'farmer-herder' conflicts. He maintained that herder-herder conflicts are usually conflicts between nomadic or transhumant livestock keepers that arise between receiving groups over their territory's resources and incoming groups searching for water and pastures, and cattle raiding. Herder-herder conflict is a conflict that results from theft of cattle or other animals among the Fulani herdsmen. It is herdsmen rustling cattle of other herdsmen, or when un-experienced herders entrust their animals in the care of experienced herders under agreements, and when such agreements are breached conflict occasions within. The violent cattle raids among pastoralists in East Africa are examples of herder-herder conflicts. Hussein, Sumberg, and Seddon, (1999) see farmer-herder conflicts as comprising different types of conflicts, including ethnic conflicts, interest conflicts, resource disputes, political action, evictions, killings, cattle raiding and cattle rustling.

The farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria has ethnic and religious dimensions. The pastoralist herders who mostly live in the north are called "Fulani" people. Fulani's are considered as settlers by other ethnicities in Nigeria, as they started to move to this region from other parts of Western Africa around fifteenth century. Fulani people founded an Islamic Caliphate in today's northern Nigeria and after that they became politically more effective in the region. Some Fulani migrated southwards and got mixed with the local Hausa people. Today there are pastoralist and nomadic Fulanis who mainly live in the north. And the urbanized Fulanis (they are called Hausa-Fulani) live more in the south. Both groups speak Fulfude language and are Muslims. They have many commonalities however, urban Fulanis are considered being more politically wise and preeminent than nomadic Fulanis (Maiangwa, 2017). Meanwhile, Blench (2003) reports that the herders and farmers conflicts began at about the 20th Century as a result of two major developments: the introduction of modern veterinary services leading to increase in herder sizes; and increased farming due to increasing population pressures. Blench (2010) also highlighted four major factors that affect conflict between herdsmen and farmers as: the collapse of the traditional system of cattle routes; the declining importance of dairy production; migration and disease; and the intensification of agriculture in riverine areas known as fadama cultivation. However, McGregor (2014) says that for decades now conflict between herdsmen and farmers has been a reoccurring issue in Nigeria most especially in the North Central States or Middle Belt region of Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba and some parts of Kaduna State. In 2004, herders and farmers conflicts resulted into "near genocide" of Christians and Muslims in Plateau State, with more than 20,000 refugees fleeing to neighbouring state and country. In a report published by SMB Intelligence and cited in Amzat, Fagbemi, Wantu and Akinboye (2016) over 2,000 people were killed in conflicts between the herdsmen and different host communities in Nigeria in 2015 alone. On February 24, 2016, Fulani herdsmen were reported to have killed over 300 people in Agatu community in Benue State and not less than seven local government Areas in the state were under siege as at March 2018; between February 2013 and January 2018, there are reports of 47 such attacks on the North Central region of Nigeria and over 5,000 deaths (Stefanos Foundation 2018). These attacks became so wanton and brutal that the 2015 Global Terrorism Index rated the Fulani

pastoralists as the fourth most deadly terrorist group behind the Taliban, ISIL, Boko Haram in the world (Institute of Economics and Peace, 2015).

It is against this background that the study seek to evaluate the impact of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. However, the specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Ascertain the causes of farmers-herdsmen conflict in Oke-Ogun area.
2. Assess the damages experienced when farmers-herdsmen conflict occurs in Oke-Ogun area.
3. Examine the effects of farmers-herdsmen conflict on socio-economic development in Oke-Ogun area.
4. Examine the measures put in place to curb the farmers-herdsmen conflict in Oke-Ogun area.

2. Literature Review And Theoretical Framework

This section examines the literature on the impact of the conflict between farmers and herders on socioeconomic advancement in various Nigerian states. Igwe, (2020) examined role of Peaceful Co-existence Committee (PCC) in preventing farmer-herders conflicts in Iseyin local government area of Oke-ogun zone, Oyo state South/west Nigeria. The findings from the study revealed that the damage to crops, cattle rustling, climatic change leading to desertification and drought in the north, water pollution, competition for arable land among others were the main causes of farmer-herder conflicts. Also, Okoro, (2018) examined the prevalence of herdsmen-farmers conflict and its effects on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The study found that the Herdsmen-farmers conflict created food insecurity, distrust and unemployment.

In the same vein, Ndubuisi, (2018) critically analyzed the conflicts between herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria. The Fulani herdsmen attack on Nigerian citizens has taken on an alarming dimension this day. Hardly a week passes without one rumour of attack or another in one part of the country. In each of these attacks property worth millions of naira and lives are destroyed on a large scale. The study discovered that many people have lost their property and lives; that many people have been displaced from their homes; and that the peace, security and unity of the country as a federation are being seriously threatened. Also, Okoli and Ogayi, (2018) explored the phenomenon of herdsmen militancy as a new trajectory for the farmer–herder crisis in Nigeria, with reference to its humanitarian implications. In view of the dire humanitarian consequences of the situation, the article submits that herdsmen militancy constitutes a major threat to human and national security in Nigeria. It makes a case for a pragmatic policy capable of mitigating the myriad socio-ecological factors that tend to trigger herdsmen militancy, with prohibition on open grazing in critical hotbeds of herder–farmer conflict as a strategic measure.

Furthermore, Okoro, (2018) examined the implication of herdsmen-farmers' conflict on the national development. The study is anchored on conflict theory, frustration aggression theory, and failed state theory. The work adopts qualitative approach to data analysis which relies on secondary sources like journals, textbooks, newspapers and online organizational publications. Evidences show that attacks and

counter-attacks from Fulani herdsmen and farmers respectively resulted to loss of human and animal lives, displacement of persons, destruction of houses, farmlands and crops, and distrust between herdsmen and farmers. The study concluded that the Herdsmen farmers' conflict created food insecurity, distrust and unemployment capable of inhibiting national development in Nigeria. Also, Ukamaka *et al.*, (2017) assessed the causes and effects of herdsmen-farmers' conflicts on livelihood of agrarian communities in Kogi State. A total of 135 randomly selected crop farmers was used. Data were collected by use of structured interview and focus group discussion, and analysed using descriptive statistics and factor analysis. The results showed that crop farmers were predominantly male (85.2%), married (85.9%) and with mean age of 51 years. They were small scale farmers with average farm size of 2.9 ha and were engaged in the production of yam (97.8%), cassava (92.6%), maize (92.6%) and other arable crops, mainly for income and household food supply. The farmers indicated that violation of laws/tradition, livelihood interference and cultural factors were the major causes of conflict between crop farmers and herdsmen. Consequently, the socio-economic life, production outcome and settlement of crop farmers are affected, cumulating to breakdown in livelihood assets of farmers. Meanwhile, Oli *et al.*, (2018) examined the prevalence of herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria. The study is anchored on the frustration aggression and conflict theories. Data were extracted from secondary sources like journals, textbooks, newspapers and online organizational publications. Evidences indicated that herdsmen-farmers conflict is prevalent in the country. It also showed that some of the factors that usually led to clashes were destruction or grazing on crops, long-standing disagreements, lack of access to farm or grazing fields and scarcity of fresh water. Consequently, loss of human and animal lives, destruction of crops and properties, displacement of persons and animals, rising anti-Fulani sentiment and breakdown of peaceful relationship with many communities in some parts of the country were amongst the gross effects of the conflict.

In the same manner, Idakwoji *et al.*, (2018) identified the root causes of herders/farmers conflicts in Kogi State. The study was a survey research. Three hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The area of study is Kogi State. Data for the study were generated from primary and secondary sources. The instruments used for data collection were questionnaire and interview. The population for the study was drawn from farmers, herders, traditional rulers, community leaders and security agents from the study area. The data collected were presented and analyzed using qualitative and quantitative approaches. Descriptive statistics was used with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16. Findings were made based on the tested significance level of the responses as revealed by the standard deviation analysis. Also, Odiegwu-Enwerem *et al.*, (2020) examined how Nigerian newspapers reported the herdsmen and farmers' conflict in Nigeria. It analyzed the contents of six newspapers to explore the primary sources, the prominence accorded the conflict reports, and the themes focused on their reportage. Findings show that out of the 159 stories considered for the study, newspapers relied mostly on their correspondents and herdsmen representatives as primary news sources. Public condemnation/protests and government/public intervention were the dominant thematic focus. The northsouth media axis phenomenon in Nigeria resonated in the coverage as the frame of 'herdsmen-against-farmers' is indicated more in the southern-based newspapers consistent with the prevailing public notion.

3. Methodology

Data Collection Method

The data for this research work was collected through the oral interview and questionnaire. It was a self-designed interview to two groups of people to measure the impact of farmers-herders conflict on economy development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Three hundred and fifty (350) questionnaires were distributed in order to gather some necessary and relevant information. The study will adopt a survey research design for data collection through standardized questionnaires administered to respondents. The questionnaire will be divided into two parts. The first part contains questions on socio-demographic and background information of respondents. The second part contains information's on the significant values on the impact of the farmers-herders conflict on the economy of Oke-ogun area, Oyo State. Likert-style rating scale method of questionnaire will be employed in this study to collect the views of respondents.

The second research instrument will involve oral interview schedule. The first group of people contain the farmers' elders in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, Nigeria while the second group contains the herders' elders in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The interview involve five sections. Section one focus on the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics such as age, sex, school, etc. Section two of the questionnaire address the first objective of the study which centers on how often the farmers-herdsmen conflict occurs in Oke-Ogun area. Section three will address the second objective of the study which is to ascertain the causes of farmers-herdsmen conflict in Oke-Ogun area. Also, section four of the questionnaire will address the third objectives of the study which is to assess the damages experienced when farmers-herdsmen conflict in Oke-Ogun area while section five will address the forth objective of the study which is to examine the effects of farmers-herdsmen conflict on socio-economic development in Oke-Ogun area.

Method Of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis used in the study is descriptive analysis. The computation is done using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Data collected is subjected to descriptive and statistical analysis using tables and simple percentages from which the interpretations is deduced from for further description/explanation. The qualitative data collected was analysed using content analysis verbaton quotations and thematic analysis

4. Empirical Analysis

Descriptive Analysis of the Socio-Economic Characteristics

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Gender	Male	164	56.6	56.6
	Female	126	43.4	100.0
Marital Status	Single	65	22.4	22.4
	Married	142	49.0	71.4
	Divorced	49	16.9	88.3
	Widow/Widower	34	11.7	100.0
Age	21–30	80	27.6	27.6
	31–40	84	29.0	56.6
	41–50	63	21.7	78.3
	Above 50	63	21.7	100.0
Level of Education	No Former education	54	18.6	18.6
	Primary education	72	24.8	43.4
	Secondary Education	116	40.0	83.4
	Tertiary Education	48	16.6	100.0
Average Monthly Income	Less than N100, 000	192	66.2	66.2
	N100,000 – N 150,000	52	17.9	84.1
	N151, 000 – N200,000	24	8.3	92.4
	Above N200,000	22	7.6	100.0
Ethnicity	Yoruba	181	62.4	62.4
	Hausa	37	11.0	77.2
	Igbo	15	4.1	81.4
	Others	57	18.6	100.0
Religion	Christian	101	34.8	34.8
	Muslim	136	46.9	81.7
	Traditional	53	18.3	100.0
Occupation	Farmer	98	33.8	33.8
	Cattle Raring	70	24.1	57.9
Source: Author computation from Survey, 2021				

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Farmer and Cattle Raring	54	18.6	76.6
Others	68	23.4	100.0

Source: Author computation from Survey, 2021

From table above, it reveals the socio economic characteristics of the respondents where about 56.6% of the respondents were male while 43.4% of the respondents were female. From the result above, it shows that male participated more in the research than female. Also from the table, majority of the respondents (49%) were married. On aspect of age of respondents, majority of the respondents' 29% age distribution is within 31–40 years. In the same vein, on level of education of respondents, majority of the respondents 40% have secondary education. On question relating to average monthly income of the respondents 66.2% of the respondents earn less than N100,000 monthly, 17.9% of the respondents earn within N100,000 – N150,000 monthly and 8.3% of the respondents earn within the bracket of N151,000 – N200,000 monthly while 7.6% of the respondents earn above N200,000 monthly. On ethnicity of respondents, the highest number of the respondents 62.4% were Yoruba, 11% of the respondents were Hausa and 4.1% of the respondents were Igbo while 18.6% of the respondents were from other ethnicity. Lastly from the table it was found that 33.8% of the respondents were farmer, 24.1% of the respondents were carrel raring and 18.6% of the respondents' occupations were farmer and cattle raring while 23.4% of the respondents have other form of occupation.

Descriptive Analysis Of Research Objective One Of The Study: Causes of Farmer-Herders Conflict in Oke-Ogun area

Questions	SA	A	SD	D	U
Land Dispute	32 (11.0)	88 (30.3)	75 (25.9)	76 (26.2)	19 (6.6)
Destruction of crops	99 (34.1)	47 (16.2)	57 (19.7)	47 (16.2)	40 (13.8)
Contamination of streams by cattle	125 (43.1)	55 (19.0)	48 (16.6)	30 (10.3)	32 (11.0)
Zero grazing land	99 (34.1)	98 (33.8)	38 (13.1)	25 (8.6)	30 (10.3)
Disregard for local; traditional authorities	102 (35.2)	58 (20.0)	49 (16.9)	34 (11.7)	47 (16.2)
Harassment of nomads by Oke-Ogun communities youth	67 (23.1)	41 (14.1)	58 (20.0)	42 (14.5)	82 (28.3)
Indiscriminate bush burning	77 (26.6)	74 (25.5)	35 (12.1)	56 (19.3)	48 (16.6)
Cattle theft and straying of cattle	23 (7.9)	51 (17.6)	73 (25.2)	87 (30.0)	56 (19.3)
Source: Author computation from Survey, 2021					

The table above shows the response of the respondents when asked about causes of farmers-herders conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo state whereabouts majority of the respondents 30.3% agreed that land dispute is the causes of farmers-herders conflict. Also from the result, the highest number of the respondents 34.1% strongly agreed that destruction of crops caused the conflict between farmers and herders in Oke-Ogun. Also from the result, the highest number of the respondents 43.1% strongly agreed that contamination of streams by cattle is the causes of farmers-herders conflict in Oke-Ogun area. Also from the result it was found that highest number of the respondents 38% strongly disagreed that zero grazing land is the causes of farmer-herders conflict in Oke-Ogun. In the same vein, it was found that the highest number of the respondents 28.3% of were uncertain if harassment of nomads by Oke-Ogun communities youth is the causes of Farmer-Herders conflict in Oke-Ogun area. 26.6% which is the highest number of the respondents strongly agreed that indiscriminate bush burning is the causes of farmer-herders conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo –State. Lastly from the result above, the highest number of the respondents which is 30% disagreed that cattle theft and straying of cattle is the causes of farmers-herders conflict.

Descriptive Analysis Of Research Objective Two Of The Study:

Damages Experienced when Farmers-Herdsman Conflict Occurs in Oke-Ogun area

Category	SA	A	SD	D	U
Reduction in crop yield	30 (10.3)	90 (31.0)	54 (18.6)	72 (24.8)	44 (15.2)
Reduction in income and output of farmers and herders	55 (19.0)	71 (24.5)	66 (22.8)	72 (24.8)	26 (9.0)
Loss of product in the storage	102 (34.2)	96 (33.1)	20 (6.9)	19 (6.6)	53 (18.3)
Loss of lives	71 (24.5)	82 (28.3)	49 (16.9)	39 (13.4)	49 (16.)
Arms running	64 (22.1)	58 (20.0)	46 (15.9)	48 (16.6)	74 (25.5)
Loss of house and properties	116 (40.0)	81 (27.9)	43 (14.8)	19 (6.6)	31 (10.7)
Source: Author computation from Survey, 2021					

From result above it revealed the respondents response on the damages experienced when Farmers-Herders conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State whereabouts majority of the respondents 31% agreed that reduction in crop yield is one of the damages experienced when farmers-herders conflict occur in Oke Ogun area of Oyo-State. Also from the result above, majority of the respondents 24.8% disagree that reduction in income and output of farmers and herders is one of the damages experienced when farmers-herders conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State while. In the same vein, the highest number of the respondents 34.2% strongly agreed that loss of product in the storage is one of the damages experienced when farmers-herders conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. Meanwhile, the highest number of the respondents 28.3% of the agreed that loss of lives is one of the damages experienced when farmers-herders conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. More so, majority of the respondents 25.5% of the respondents were not certain if arms running is one the damages experienced when farmers-herders conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. Lastly from the result above, it was found that highest number of the respondents 40% strongly agreed that loss of house and properties is one the damages experienced when farmers-herders conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, 27.9% of the respondents agreed that loss of house and properties is one the damages experienced when farmers-herders conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, 14.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed that loss of house and properties is one the damages experienced when farmers-herders conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State and 6.6% of the respondents disagreed that loss of house and properties is one the damages experienced when farmers-herders conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State while 10.7% of the respondents were uncertain.

Descriptive Analysis Of Research Question Three Of The Study:

The Effects of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict on Socio-Economic Development in Oke-Ogun area

Questions	SA	A	SD	D	U
Loss of human lives	117 (40.3)	68 (23.4)	30 (10.3)	19 (6.6)	56 (19.3)
Displacement of person	57 (19.7)	85 (29.3)	35 (12.1)	66 (22.8)	47 (16.2)
Destruction of house	71 (24.5)	65 (22.4)	40 (13.8)	24 (8.3)	90 (31.0)
Destruction of farmland and crops	155 (53.4)	18 (6.2)	39 (13.4)	10 (3.4)	68 (23.4)
Threat to national security	28 (9.7)	138 (47.6)	62 (21.4)	16 (5.5)	46 (15.9)
Unemployment	46 (15.9)	105 (36.2)	20 (6.9)	24 (8.3)	95 (32.8)
Threat to food Security	63 (21.7)	64 (22.1)	36 (12.4)	38 (13.1)	89 (30.7)
Source: Author computation from Survey, 2021					

From the descriptive result above, it shows the response of the respondents when asked about the effect of Farmers-Herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State where about the highest number of the respondents 40.3% strongly agreed that loss of human lives is one of the effect of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. Also from the result above, majority of the respondents 29.3% agreed that displacement of person is one of the effects of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. In the same vein, highest number of the respondents 24.5% strongly agreed that destruction of house is one of the effects of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. More so, highest number of respondents 53.4% strongly agreed that destruction of farmland and crops is one of the effects of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. In the same vein highest number of the respondents 47.6% strongly agreed that threat to national security is one of the effects of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State while least number of the respondents 5.5% agreed that threat to national security is one of the effects of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. Also, highest number of the respondents 36.2% agreed that unemployment is one of the effects of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State while least number of the respondents 6.9% strongly disagreed that unemployment is one of the effects of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. Lastly from the table highest number of the respondents 30.7% were not certain that threat to food security is one of the effects of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State while the least number of the respondents 12.4% strongly disagreed that threat to food security is one of the effects of farmers-herders conflict on socio-economic development of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State.

Descriptive Analysis Of Research Question Five Of The Study:

Effect of farmers-herdsmen conflict on production in Oke-Ogun area

Questions	SA	A	SD	D	U
The struggle over land between farmers and herdsmen has not affected any production in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State	65(22.4)	67(23.1)	41(14.1)	39(13.4)	78(26.9)
Conflict between farmers and herdsmen has not affected cattle rearing so much in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State	85(29.3)	82(28.3)	41(14.1)	26(9.0)	56(19.3)
The destruction of land and water resources during farmers and herders clashes are not such that enough food cannot be produced in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State	44(15.2)	93(32.1)	7(2.4)	22(7.6)	124(42.8)
Source: Author computation from Survey, 2021					

Table above explains the effect of farmers-herders conflict on production in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo state where about 26.9% which is the highest number of the respondents were uncertain that the struggle over land between farmers and herdsmen has not affected any production in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. Also from the table majority of the respondents 29.3% strongly agreed that conflict between farmers and herdsmen has not affected cattle rearing so much in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. Lastly from the table above, highest number of the respondents 48.2% of the respondents were uncertain that the destruction of land and water resources during farmers and herders clashes are not such that enough food cannot be produced in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State

Analysis Of Research Objectives Using Focus Group Discussion (Fgds)

Ascertain the Causes of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflict in Oke-Ogun Area.

Base on research objective one, It was also found that there were diversifies response from the participants on how often farmers-herdsmen conflict occur in the area of study

Few interview conducted on FGD respondents who revealed that;

One of the group said:

They take their cow our farmland and eat all our crops, when we complain they will bring out their sword in other to kill us. We don't have company or industries all we do is to farm and still they will eat up our

crops and you believe we will fold arms and look at them.

(FGD/48yrs/married/Farmer/November, 2021)

Furthermore, another group retorted:

We don't have any other job here in our town aside farming and it is what our fathers use in sending us to school and sending us to work. If this herdsman meet us in the farm they will order their cows to eat from the crop while sending the farmer out of their farms, if the farmer should complain of such act they will bring out their sword in order to fight or kill. If the matter get to law enforcement agencies they will support the herdsman because of the money and cows they get in return from them

(FGD/61yrs/Married/Traditional Elder/October, 2021)

In the same vein, another respondent replied:

Firstly the farmers are doing their job by farming while the herdsman are also doing their job by rearing of their cattles and no one should affect each other. Imagine after a hard labour in order to plant crops and cattle come to the farm to eat up all the crops while in the farm or while away from the farm. If we take a step by reporting to the law enforcement authority they will do nothing about it

(FGD/45yrs/Married/Farmer/October, 2021)

In the same vein, another respondent replied:

There is no other causes of farmers-herders conflict then the herdsman sending their cattle to our farmland to eat up our crops and their men rape our wives on their way to farm. No government authorities have power over them including our traditional rulers.

(FGD/45yrs/Married/Councilor/October, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

Farmers are protesting on the damages caused by herdsman, a lot of farm produce getting waste everyday as the herdsman cattle eat them up with no compensation

(FGD/42yrs/Married/Farmer/October, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

There is misunderstanding between the farmers and herdsman because some farmers are into rearing of cattles and they employ or partnership with herdsman in order to rear their own cattle. This gives the herdsman courage to brag that the farmer hire them to feed their cattle on other people's farm

(FGD/28yrs/Married/Student/November, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

There is overgrazing, the herdsmen took their cattles to the farmers farmland to feed on them and if the farmer should retaliate it is either it lead to them killing themselves or bloody.

(FGD/24/Single/Student/October, 2021)

Damages Experienced When Farmers-herdsmen Conflict Occur In Oke-ogun Area

Base on research objective two, It was also found that there were diversifies response from the participants on damages experience when farmers-herders conflict occur in the area of study

Few interview conducted on FGD respondents who revealed that;

One of the group retorted:

Wasting of all resources, lot of lives were lost in process. If the farmer end up being compensated for the damaged crop the herdsmen will still go back to collect the money and kill the farmer.

(FGD/61yrs/Married/Traditional Elder/October, 2021)

Meanwhile, another group replied:

No damages has been caused since farmers-herders conflict has been happening here in Oke-Ogun not until when Sunday Igboho intervene it gives us the courage to attack the herdsmen and they attack us back in return and it leads to loss of so many things including trucks use in transporting farm products, burning of farmlands, burning of houses and shops etc.

(FGD/45yrs/Married/Farmer/October, 2021)

In the same vein, another group replied:

There has been a lot of damages as a result of the conflict between farmers-herdsmen. For example when we plant our crops me might be expecting a return of N200,000 from our cassava and the herdsmen cattle end up eating it all and all we could realise is maybe N10,000 after their cattles eat up the cassava. A lot of damages that I can't mention, not only the farmers but the herdsmen too because we poison a lot of their cattle when they did not stop eating our crops

(FGD/49yrs/Married/Farmer/October, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

A lot of damages happened, a lot of loss their lives, cars were burnt, house were burnt and collapsed and some people were amputated, shops were burnt down, some were raped and some farms were burnt down while some cattles were poisoned.

(FGD/52yrs/Married/Farmer/October, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

There are a lot of damages that happened as a result of the conflict between farmers and herdsmen. Damage number one is that farmers were unable to produce sufficient crops, damage number two is that farmers go into bankruptcy because a lot of investment on their farmland profit were not make but instead they make loss as a result of damages caused by the herdsmen cattle on farmers' crops. Damage number three is famine. There is a lot famine going on in Oke-Ogun at the moment and no other reason than the conflict between Farmers-Herdsmen

(FGD/28yrs/Single/Student/November, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

The herders-farmers conflicts have resulted in the displacement of many persons from their ancestral homes thus turning them into "exiles" and "refugees" in their own country.

(FGD/28yrs/Married/Student/November, 2021)'

In addition another respondent argued:

There is scarcity of meat as a result of the conflict between the two party and the price of fish is on the increase. Purchase of cow is not available because the herdsmen were chased out of the time. There is low farm return on crops planted because of the damages caused by the cattle to the crop on farmland.

(FGD/24/Single/Student/October, 2021)

Effects Of Farmers-herdsmen Conflict On Socio-economic Development In Oke-ogun Area

Base on research objective three, It was also found that there were diversifies response from the participants on effects of farmers-herdsmen conflict on socio-economic development in Oke-Ogun area. Few interview conducted on FGD respondents revealed that;

One of the group said:

It really affect the socio-economic affairs of the town because a lot of farmers cannot longer go to the market like before with the fear that they might get killed. Those who are into business and have shops and complex have lost it all therefore, it really affect the socio-economic of the people in the town a lot. A lot of people have flew the town as a result of the conflict. The conflict really ruined the economic affairs of the town

(FGD/48yrs/married/Farmer/November, 2021)

Furthermore, another group retorted:

Before the conflict between farmers and herds men, the economy of the town was in a very good shape because both parties patronize each other well enough, the herdsmen will come to the town/village to purchase what they will use in their Bush. It does not really affect the socio-economic of the people because it is what we plant we harvest and not the other way round. It only affect in terms of sales and not in terms of production and the sales of a thing we transport our farm produce out to nearby town to sale.

(FGD/61yrs/Married/Traditional Elder/October, 2021)

Meanwhile, another group replied:

From my perspective there is no effect on our socio-economic activities because the only thing the herdsmen produce is meat and there are other things we can feed on aside their meat. If there is any effect on socio-economic characteristics it should on the herdsmen side but they are not free to come inside the town to purchase farm produce like before and they can't be feeding on their meat production every day. The conflict between farmers and herders did not affect the farmers in any form but instead it affect the herdsmen

(FGD/45yrs/Married/Farmer/October, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

A lot of damages happened, a lot of loss their lives, cars were burnt, house were burnt and collapsed and some people were amputated, shops were burnt down, some were raped and some farms were burnt down while some cattles were poisoned.

(FGD/52yrs/Married/Farmer/October, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

'There are a lot of damages that happened as a result of the conflict between farmers and herdsmen. Damage number is that farmers were unable to produce sufficient crops, damage number two is that farmers go into bankruptcy because a lot of investment on their farmland profit were not make but instead they make loss as a result of damages caused by the herdsmen cattle on farmers' crops. Damage number three is famine. There is a lot famine going on in Oke-Ogun at the moment and no other reason than the conflict between Farmers-Herdsmen

(FGD/28yrs/Married/Student/November, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

There is scarcity of meat as a result of the conflict between the two party and the price of fish is on the increase. Purchase of cow is not available because the herdsmen were chased out of the time. There is low farm return on crops planted because of the damages caused by the cattle to the crop on farmland.

(FGD/24/Single/Student/October, 2021)

Measures Put In Place To Curb The Farmers-herdsmen Conflict In Oke-ogun Area

Base on research objective four, It was also found that there were diversifies response from the participants on measures put in place to curb the farmers-herdsmen conflict in Oke-Ogun area

Few interview conducted on FGD respondents revealed that;

One of the group said:

They has been measure taken by the traditional rulers and government by mobilizing security personnel monitoring the affairs of the people in the town including the movement of the farmers and herds men. Despite the mobilisation of security personnel, it only subdue the conflict but it did not eradicate it.

(FGD/48yrs/married/Farmer/November, 2021)

Furthermore, another group retorted:

Our governor engineer Seyi Makinde came and he promised we will see his hand in the town but we are yet to get any response from the government as we speak. The only measures taken is the implementation of amotekun as means of security to guard the town and its environs against future clash which is not really enough to curb the conflict between farmers and herders

(FGD/61yrs/Married/Traditional Elder/October, 2021)

In the same vein, another group replied:

The best measure to be put in place is peace discussion. If the conflict should continue it will affect both parties.

(FGD/49yrs/Married/Farmer/October, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

A lot of measures has been put in place to curb the conflict between farmers and herdsmen some of which include increase in security system of the town and peace talking between both parties.

(FGD/52yrs/Married/Farmer/October, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

There has been a lot of measure set in to counter farmers-herders conflict in the town by the traditional rulers by creating vigilante in order to monitor the movement of the herdsmen since the time they operate

most is night.

(FGD/28yrs/Married/Student/November, 2021)

In addition another respondent argued:

The governor of Oyo state has really tried on the conflict between the two parties compared to other southwest state. The amotekun involvement has really helped the situation of things in the community. The traditional rulers peace meeting has also pave way for peace to reign in the community.

(FGD/24/Single/Student/October, 2021)

Discussion Of Findings And Recommendation

In the study research objective one ascertain the causes of farmers-herdsmen conflict in Oke-Ogun area. It was found that has been different causes of farmers-herders conflict from various dimension. Using response from the highest number of the respondents, it was found that land dispute, destruction of crops and disregards for local traditional authorities are the major causes of farmers-herders conflict in Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State. Meanwhile result from interview is entirely different from the survey result.

Base on research question two which is to access the damages experienced when farmers-herdsmen conflict occur in Oke-Ogun area. It was also found that lots of damages were recorded as a result of the conflict between both parties which includes loss of lives, properties, homes etc. Meanwhile, the study of Igwe (2020) reveals that aside the general effects on loss of lives, animals, farm crops, there are soil erosion, poisoning of water and displacement of farmers and pastoral problems but not included in the study result.

The result objective three of the study which is to investigate the effects of farmers-herdsmen conflict on socio-economic development in Oke-Ogun area. The study identifies that herders-farmers conflicts have resulted in the displacement of many persons from their ancestral homes thus turning them into “exiles” and “refugees” in their own country based on response from the respondents who were interviewed. More so there were diversify response from the respondents where some believe there is no relationship or effect between farmers-herders conflict and socio economic characteristics of the respondents but base on the highest result from the focus group discussion and highest number from the respondents response from the questionnaires distributed, it was found that socio-economic of Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State has been on decrease since after the conflict between farmers and herdsmen till date.

Lastly, objective four of the study which is to measures put in place to curb the farmers-herdsmen conflict in Oke-Ogun area reveals that numerous measure has been set in place and the most of it all is the involvement of local security otherwise known as amotekun and vigilante in other to reduce the conflict between farmers-herders in the study area.

The result of the study also goes along with the findings of most of the scholars who have worked on the related topic with the likes of Igwe (2020) who found that damage to crops, cattle rustling, climatic

change leading to desertification and drought, water pollution, competition for arable land among others were the main causes of farmer-herder conflicts. In the same vein, findings of Okoro (2018) revealed that conflicts have resulted to loss of lives, displacement, distrust, destruction of properties etc which is also in line with the current study.

Based on the findings, for the farmers-herders conflict to be totally eradicated, they need to significantly agree to live in peace and not affect each other wellbeing. For this to fully take place, the research recommends that Government (policy makers) should set up of administrative machinery for peace and conflict resolution as well as the encouragement of constant dialogue between farmers and herders. Meanwhile, there is need to resuscitate and massively fund the various river basin authorities especially in the rural part of south west to enable the growth of grass for animal grazing to minimize nomadic mobility across the country. Considering the importance of national security, there is a need for the creation of appropriate and adequate security architecture. This would help to keep track and checkmate the influx of illegal small arms and light weapons into the country. Furthermore, the creation of common platforms like neighbourhood watch as well as the resuscitation of communal arbitration mechanisms is indispensable in enthroneing peace. Lastly, farmers whose crops fields were destroyed should be assisted with compensation to enable them rebuild their farms. They should be encouraged to embrace improve food production technologies in line with complimentary practices in order their raise their current level of production and of course, their access to food for family consumption. This is because a large part of food consumption of farm household is non-production. Therefore, any attempt to improve production will directly and positively affect the amount of food available to farmers, increasing their chances of food security.

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Declarations

Competing interests: The author declares no competing interests. Consent statement: I hereby declare that the participant of my study provided their consent verbally to be part of my research and for me to publish the manuscript.