

THE PARADOX OF HERDSMEN/FARMERS IMPASSE AND FOOD SECURITY IN UZO - UWANI ENVIRONMENT, ENUGU STATE – NIGERIA (2015-2019)

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the paradox of herdsmen/farmers impasse and food security in Uzo -Uwani environment, Enugu state – Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study were to examine the effect of insecurity on the availability of food in Enugu State and to ascertain the level of awareness of people on issues relating to food security in the Enugu State. The theories adopted for study are Eco violence theory and Resource Access theory. The population of the study was 183, 2071 and non probability sampling techniques was used. The data used were primary data collected through structured questionnaire and secondary data. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage and the hypotheses were tested using Z-test with the aid of statistical package for social science (SPSS, 23). The findings revealed that security has a significant effect on the availability of food in Enugu State and there is a significant difference in the level of awareness of the people on issues relating to food security in Enugu State. The researcher concludes that Herdsmen and Farmers crisis is very deadly and should be put to a stop by leaders at all levels and it has taken thousands of lives in the country and therefore should be seen as a very endemic situation that needs to be arrested by all means. The researchers recommended that government should set up conflict mediation, resolution, reconciliation and peace building mechanisms in rural communities, local government areas and states affected by the conflict.

Keywords: Conflict, Farmers, Food Security, Herdsmen, Impasse, Insecurity, Paradox.

INTRODUCTION

The Fula origin also known as Fulani are a mass inhabitants widely dispersed in all of Africa, but most predominant in West Africa. The Fulani people are descendants from Middle East and North Africa. However, the history of the Fulani origin began with the Berbers of North Africa around the 8th or 11th century AD (Anter, 2015). Over a millennium ago from AD 900 - 1900, they spread to most parts of West Africa and to some areas of Central Africa (Anter, 2015). The Fulani migrants were predominantly Muslims. As the population increases, the number of converts to Islam also increased. In the opening of 18th century,

there were revolts between the Fulani and the local people. Although, these uprisings began as holy wars (jihads), after their triumph they followed the basic standard of Fulani ethnic dominance in most West African States. Most of the Fulani people are nomadic in nature, herding sheep, goats and cattle across the dry grass lands of their environs and making them the main pastoral nomadic group in the world.

The main Fulani sub-groups in Nigeria are: Fulbe Adamawa, Fulbe Mbororo, Fulbe Sokoto, Fulbe Gombe, and the Fulbe Borgu. A significant number of them are nomadic in nature, herding cattle, goats and sheep across the vast dry grass lands of their environment, keeping isolate from the local farming communities, making them the world's largest pastoral nomadic group (Eyekpimi, 2016). They are massively spread over many countries, and are found mainly in West Africa and northern parts of Central Africa, but also in Sudan and Egypt.

There have been several cases of farmers-herdsmen conflicts across various states and locations in Nigeria. These conflicts have now become so threatening on the country's national integration, such that the hitherto peaceful relationship between farmers and herdsmen across various parts of Nigeria is degenerating to a carnage level, leading to loss of lives and properties. Attempts by the federal government to curb the incessant farmers-herdsmen appear to be futile. According to Mwanfupe (2015), Farmers-Herdsmen conflicts are equally prevalent in Cameroon, Tanzania, Sudan and Kenya. Narrating the incidence of the conflicts in Tanzania, Mwanfupe (2015) notes that: Policy deficiencies and contradictions on land tenure, inadequate capacity of the local institutions in settling such conflicts, violent nature of approach used to resolve and manage the conflicts – using police, corruption and politics of the belly, lack of coordination in settling the herdsmen and the villages lacking in land use plan. He further concludes that, “unless security of tenure on land used by smallholders (both farmers and herdsmen) is restored, the conflicts between them will continue” (Mwanfupe, 2015).

According to Mwanfupe (2015) Nigeria as a nation state is under a severe internal socio-economic and security threat. At a more general level, the threat has special economic, political and environmental dimensions. Each of these dimensions has greatly affected the nation's stability and can be traced to the Fulani-herdsmen and farmers clash, ethnic militant armies, ethnic and religious conflicts, poverty, insurgency, armed robbery, corruption, economic sabotage and environmental degradation (Damba, 2016). Food security is a condition related to the supply of food, and individuals' access to it. Concerns over food security have existed throughout history. There is evidence of Granaries being in use over 10,000 years ago, with central authorities in civilizations including ancient China and ancient Egypt being known to release food from storage in times of famine (Illufoye, 2009). At the 1974 World Food Conference the term "food security" was defined with an emphasis on supply. Food security, they said, is the "availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices" (United Nations, 2013). Later definitions added demand and access issues to the definition. Violent conflict and crisis in Nigeria, like other parts of the world, have created a rift in human relations, caused serious threat to food security, among many other effects (Basil, 2015). Crisis is inevitable as long as we live together, especially in a multi-ethnic, cultural and religious community like Nigeria. However violence leaves us with various forms of retardation and underdevelopment resulting from the destruction of lives, farmland and property. The menaces of violent crisis conflict have been on the increase in some most Nigerian cities in the last two decades (Ilufeye, 2009). Most of these conflicts are generally regarded as ethno-religious bigotry and antagonism.

According to Kassam (2014) the conflicts in most part of Nigeria especially the Fulani herdsmen and farmers clash are largely uncalled for. Farmers can no longer farm peacefully because of Herdsmen. These Herdsmen and Farmers clash have pitched Christians and Muslims against each other. The conflict has had

devastating effects on inter-group relationships especially in Nasarawa Egor in Nasarawa State and Agatu L.G.A of Benue State. Apart from the loss of lives, farmlands, food produce and property, it has profound influence on residential relationships, leading to new trends in the polarization of communities. This is evident in a physical manifestation of mono religious areas in Nasarawa and Benue States, with Christians and Muslims living in dominant religious clusters (Eyekpemi, 2016). Recent studies conducted by Basil (2015) and Ekpeyemi (2016) have shown that, serious conflict erupt between Fulani herdsmen and farmers leading to loss of lives, valuable properties and destruction of vast expanse of arable agricultural farmlands thereby posing serious threat to food security since farmers for fear of attack could no longer go to farm and harvest their farm produce. The recent attacks by Herdsmen is on the increase, with the most recent attacks in June 2016 occurring in Ossissa community in Ndokwa East and Abraka community in Ethiope East Local Government Areas of Delta State and three more communities (Ugondo, Turan, Gabo Nenzev) in Logo Local Government Area, Benue State, total killings involving no fewer than 60 persons (Ekpeyemi, 2016). The Federal Government recently ordered an inquiry, military crackdown on the group and affirmed its plans to establish cattle ranches as a solution to the frequent clashes between Herdsmen and Farmers in Nigeria (Basil, 2015).

In recent times, the killings recorded by Herdsmen and Farmers clash has rampaged most communities displacing them of their farmlands and loss of their major source of livelihood. This is becoming unbearable with the Herdsmen always having their ways leaving the farmers at their mercy. Farmers now go to farm armed with weapons for defense in case of attack (Ekpeyemi, 2016).

Nigeria is seriously threatened by Herdsmen and Farmers crisis and therefore, considered to be a major potential threat affecting Nigerians mostly on the part of socio-economic activities of the country (Egodi, 2010). The Herdsmen and Farmers crisis is posing a serious obstacle to a successful national economy. Herdsmen and Farmers has become a major threat to the national security and development of Nigeria due to the fact that its increased operation has caused diversion and removed government attention on some key areas of the economy, as huge amount of human and material resources are channeled into curbing the menace (Egodi, 2010).

Conflict is a great predicament in any human society, and most times, it is predictable. In fact, history indicates that conflict is an on-going process in human relations and may occur within and among groups and communities. In the case of Nigeria, the frequent occurrence of Herdsmen and Farmers crisis has left adverse effects on food security and socio-economic development of the people (Damba, 2007). In the course of these conflicts, farmers have at certain times, taken up weapons to counter the attacks from the Herdsmen, claiming to do so in self-defense. The study conducted by Kassam (2016) gave an overview of the general concept and causes of conflicts in Nigeria and, advocates for ethical principles such as the common solidarity of humanity by origin, forgiveness and tolerance that could engender cordiality and understanding rather than sustained hostility and suspicion in Herdsmen and Farmers relation in Nigeria.

Farmer-Herdsmen conflict has increased tremendously in recent time in Nigeria, especially in the North-Central geo-political zone and Southern zones of the country. The causes of the conflict have been traceable to the policy gaps and underdevelopment of grazing lands, land ownership and utilization, increase in production due to the increase in population, climate change, induced competition for resources, and other environmental factors. This causes by implication resulting in internal displacement, loss of life and properties, hunger and insecurity, destruction of farm crops, cattle rustling and killings of cows (Fasona, Adedayo, & Olunfemi, 2016). However, the Nigerian government has made several attempts to mitigate this problem from the root in several parts of the country, but the government's response to the violence revolves the use of military force and mediation by eminent persons at a crisis point. Neither the military nor mediation

panels have been able to address the conflicts. In most cases where military forces are deployed to curtail the violence, it aggravates the incidents especially in the treatment of the civil population which itself has become a critical political and security challenges (Hoffman, 2014). The duo efforts have failed as clashes have continued unabated over the years.

In spite of the efforts of the Federal government to curb incessant conflict between farmers and the herdsmen, the conflicts remain unabated (Al-Chukwuma & Atelhe, 2014). The Farmers/Herdsmen conflict in Nigeria has demonstrated a high potential to exacerbate insecurity and food crisis. The bloody clashes between the herdsmen and farmers continue to occur in several parts of the country. The invasion of north-central states by Herdsmen have forced farmers to abandon their fertile farmlands, rendering several communities deserted and reduced farmers to tenants in internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps. Nweze (2005) noted that many farmers and herders have lost their lives and herds, while others have experienced declining productivity in their herds.

In the regions where the Herdsmen and Farmers crisis is pervasive and the property destroyed potentially and in real terms, drag their economic fortune back by several steps. Besides the property destroyed, economic life in those regions is automatically grounded to a halt. People are no longer free to go about their farming, economic and educational activities for fear of being killed. This is made worse as several thousands of people have migrated swiftly to other parts of Nigeria. The overall implication for sustainable development is that the farming, economic and educational activities are fast deteriorating. Another major problem posed by Fulani and herdsmen and farmers clash is that farming activities in some parts of Nigeria has been put to a halt. Farmers within this region find it hard to go to their farms as well as to get enough food crops to the market thereby, increasing price of commodity in the market. The government has spent huge amount of money on the renovation of buildings, and infrastructures that has been destroyed by these religious conflicts. Also, huge amount of funds from the country's budget has been spent on the compensation of families who have lost their loved ones to the Herdsmen and farmers crisis. Also, huge amount of money is being spent on the acquisition weapons, ammunition in other to equip the military to handle the situation on ground. All these have affected Nigeria's economy. This study therefore seeks to examine the effect of Herdsmen/Farmers crises on food insecurity in Enugu State (Agba, MS 2020; Chukwurah, et al 2020; Nwakoby, 2020).

Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the paradox of herdsmen/farmers impasse and food security in Uzo - Uwani environment, Enugu state – Nigeria. The specific objectives include to:

1. Examine the effects of insecurity on the availability of food in Enugu State
2. Examine the causes of Herdsmen and Farmers crisis in Enugu State
3. Ascertain the level of awareness of people on issues relating to food insecurity in the Enugu State

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study

1. How does insecurity affect the availability of food in Enugu State?
2. What are the causes of Herdsmen and farmers crisis in Enugu State?
3. What is the level of awareness of people on issues relating to food insecurity in Enugu?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses guided the study:

H_{01} : Insecurity does not have a significant effect on the availability of food in Enugu State

H_{02} : There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of the people on issues relating to food insecurity in Enugu State

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Herdsmen

The Fula origin also known as Fulani are a mass inhabitants widely dispersed in all of Africa, but most predominant in West Africa. The Fulani people are descendants from Middle East and North Africa. However, the history of the Fulani origin began with the Berbers of North Africa around the 8th or 11th century AD (Anter, 2015). Over a millennium ago from AD 900 - 1900, they spread to most parts of West Africa and to some areas of Central Africa (Anter, 2015). The Fulani migrants were predominantly Muslims. As the population increases, the number of converts to Islam also increased. In the opening of 18th century, there were revolts between the Fulani and the local people. Although, these uprisings began as holy wars (jihads), after their triumph they followed the basic standard of Fulani ethnic dominance in most West African States. Most of the Fulani people are nomadic in nature, herding sheep, goats and cattle across the dry grass lands of their environs and making them the main pastoral nomadic group in the world. The main Fulani sub groups in Nigeria are: Fulbe Gombe, Fulbe Adamawa, Fulbe Sokoto, Fulbe e economy of Nigeria. They are the major breeders of goats, sheep and cattle as those animals are the major source of meat and affordable source of animal proteins ate by Nigerians. The Fulani own over ninety percent of the livestock population which accounts for one-third of agricultural GDP and 3.2% of the entire GDP in Nigeria (Fabiya & Otunuga, 2016). The Fulani herdsmen mostly move with their cattle's from one destination to another in search of grazing land especially in the dry season. When the Fulani light-skinned herders are migrating, they are often accompanied by their dark-skinned sedentary kinsmen (urban or town Fulani), who are better educated, more dynamic as politicians, and were fanatical and versed as Muslims than the former. When the herders encounter local opposition to their encroachments, the sedentary provide the requisite political and military strategy for resistance, and when the sedentary felt the need for socio-religious cleansing (a jihad), the herdsmen provide the rank and file of the fighting forces. However, the Fulani herders in most cases settled in fertile areas to rear their cattle and when the migration continued to be dictated by economic and socio-political factors, increased trends of conflicts between the herders and their host communities (farmers) escalated. Many Nigerians lost their lives, properties/ farmlands or crops every year to Fulani herders. The conflicts between Herdsmen and Farmers came into existence as a result of encroachment of farmlands by the herders.

Nigeria is under a severe internal and security threat as the threat has political, economic and environmental dimensions. Each of these dimensions has critically affected the stability of the nation and can be traced to many factors in which the Fulani-herdsmen appears to be major factor. Most worrisome in the present development is the pillaging, raping, killing and kidnapping by the so called Herdsmen.

In recent times, the killings recorded by Herdsmen and Farmers clash has rampaged most communities displacing them of their farmlands and loss of their major source of livelihood. This is becoming unbearable with the Herdsmen always having their ways leaving the farmers at their mercy. Herdsmen attribute the roots of the crisis to religious differences resulting in the killing of their cows while the farmers see the herdsmen as a threat to their crops and agricultural produce since the herdsmen allow their cows to feed on the farmer crops. This recent wave of violence in Nigeria as observed by Kasarachi (2016) has disrupted socioeconomic, religious and educational activities, political instability and threatened the national unity in Nigeria. These extra judiciary killings have forced thousands of people to abandon their homes and farmlands for safety.

Okereke (2012) asserts that this unfolding violence have become so alarming that there is no gainsaying the fact that Nigeria is at a crossroad and gradually drifting to a conflict society. Equally begging for answers are the social issues of the rape of women, robbery and kidnapping with ultimate intent for ransom. The researcher observed that the menace of Fulani-Herdsmen appears to have dire implications for socio-economic development in the states attacked and Nigeria in general. In the states where the Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis is pervasive, the property destroyed and cases of rapes slog their economic and

social opulence back by several steps. Besides the destroyed properties, socio-economic life in those states is usually grounded to a halt as people could not freely go about their farming and socio-economic activities for fear of being killed. The overall implication for sustainable development is that the farming, economic and social activities seem to be fast deteriorating. Also, a substantial part of the country's budget has been spent on the compensation of families who lost their relations to the Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis. Also, huge amount of money is being spent on weapons and ammunition acquisition so as to equip the military to handle the situation on ground.

History of Herdsmen and Farmers Clashes in Nigeria

Herdsmen and Farmers clashes are dated to 2012. Before then, there has been peaceful relationship among farmers and herdsmen across the states in Nigeria, except few cases of minor misunderstandings that did not claim life (Nzeh, 2015 and Doyin, 2017). According to Omawumi (2016), the current feud started because of farming, grazing land and water. The farmers accused the herdsmen of damaging their crops by failing to control their animals while the herdsmen equally claimed that the farming communities steal their cattle (Adeleke, 2018).

Experience from the South West

The governor of Ekiti State, Governor Ayodele Fayose declared war against the herdsmen, following alleged killing of two people in the State. The governors' threat was initially provoked by an earlier attack reportedly carried out by herdsmen on the 20 May, 2016, at Oke Ako, where five people were allegedly killed. In September 21, 2015, herdsmen numbering over 20 were equally reported to have abducted a former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) and chieftain of Afenifere, Chief Samuel Oluyemisi Falae on his 77th birthday after invading his farm in Ilado Village, Akure North Area of Ondo State (Oyedotun, 2017). Less than two hours after the incident, the kidnappers were said to have demanded N100m ransom but after about 96 hours, Falae, who was also a former Finance Minister, was said to have regained his freedom after he was reportedly rescued by a team of security operatives led by the former Inspector General of Police, Solomon Arase (Doyin, 2017). Following Falae's abduction, the Afenifere cultural group called for the expulsion of the herdsmen from the South-West, if they would continue to jeopardize the peace in the region (Thisday, 2016). On the same day, farmers in Lagun, Iyana Offa, Atagba, Lapata and the surrounding communities in Lagelu Local government area of Oyo State reported that they were attacked by herdsmen who also stole valuables from them (Punch, 2016). Saki, Ago-Are, Oje- Owode areas of Oyo state have been severally reported of having severe encounters of farmers and herdsmen (Vanguard, 2016). In each of the conflict, lives and properties were reported to have been lost and villagers displaced (Adeleke, 2018).

South-South Menace

On April 19 2014, residents of 25 local government areas in Delta State grounded activities on the Benin-Asaba Expressway, protesting the killing of 23 people by the nomadic herdsmen (Thisday, 2016). Also in June 19, 2015, Port Harcourt was thrown into pandemonium as a result of the killing of about 10 Farmers by Herdsmen (The nation, 2016). A lecturer and about 16 villagers were reportedly killed in Abraka on Sunday, March 26, 2017 (Punch, 2017). As at June 2018, the South-South geo-political zone is still embroiled in killings that are well established to be related to Farmers-Herdsmen confrontations (Akorede, 2018 and Goke, 2018).

Menace of the Conflict in the North-Central

In March 2016, the people of Agatu Local Government of Benue state, comprising of communities such as Aila, Akwu, Adagbo, Okokolo, Ugboju, Odugbeho, Ogbaulu, Egba and Obagji, witnessed herdsmen attack

that resulted in the death of over 300 people. Houses, schools, health centres and worship centres were razed down (The nation, 2016). The cause of the carnage was reported to be a reprisal attack by the Herdsmen over their 10,000 cows that were initially rustled. Again, there was a clash between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers on July, 2016 (Sunday Vanguard, 2016). The report had it that, not fewer than five persons were killed by the incident in Logo Local Government Area by suspected herdsmen. An eyewitness claimed that the armed herdsmen stormed the villages, singing war songs, shooting sporadically and burning houses, huts and food barns in the affected communities over clash on grazing land (Vanguard, 2016). In a related development, suspected Herdsmen were reported to have killed at least 103 people in the North Central (AFP, 2015; Clara, 2018).

This is one of the clashes in a long running battle with farming communities in the restive region. Between January to July, 2018, not less than 500 lives had been lost the clashes between farmers and herdsmen (Clara, 2018). The Benue state Governor, Samuel Ortom, claimed while defecting from All Progressive Congress to the Peoples Democratic Party that he cannot continue to keep his tent with a political party that has evidently failed to protect his people (Tribune, 2018). The first Niger state experience of farmers-herdsmen conflict occurred in November 17 2016, in Kukaki community of Shiroro Local Government Area where six of the residents were killed by cattle rustlers (Vanguard, 2016).

In the incident, four Herdsmen and two Gbagyi were said to have been killed while several others sustained different degrees of injury. The suspects, numbering about 50, according to a report, carted away about 700 cows along with other smaller animals like goats and sheep. In Plateau state, people of Riyom Local Government Area were attacked by herdsmen on March 5, 2014, killing not less than 10 people. According to Realnews (2014), more than 100 houses were also burnt when gunmen reportedly stormed Gwon, Torok, Gwawereng and Gwarim in Rim District of the Local Government Area shooting sporadically and setting houses on fire. According to a survivor, who craved anonymity, the attackers were Fulani herdsmen accompanied by some people in police uniform (Realnews, 2014). Similarly, in 2012, Senator Gyang Danton and the Majority Leader of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Mr. Gyang Fulani died in a stampede that ensued while attending the mass burial of about 50 victims of attack by Fulani herdsmen at Maseh village in Riyon LGA, Plateau State (Thisday, 2016). Till date, the North-Central geo-political zone is still witnessing regular killings of innocent people arising from farmers-herdsmen clashes (Akorede, 2018 and Adeleke, 2018).

Farmers-Herdsmen Conflicts in the North-East

In Taraba state, Farmers-Herdsmen crisis in Gassol appears to have been a protracted one spanning the period between 7 April, 2014 and 21 July, 2014. As reported by Gistmania Naijapals (2014), between the periods stated above, there had been series of attacks involving farmers and Fulani herdsmen resulting in several deaths and destruction of properties.

Adamawa state also witnessed bloodletting due to farmers and herdsmen conflict over grazing right. The crisis took a religious dimension because both Christians and the Muslims houses were reportedly burnt. Premium Times (2016) reported that on Sunday, September 4, the Divisional Police Officer, DPO, in charge of Vunokilang Police Station in Girei Local Government Area of Adamawa State was reportedly killed alongside 30 other people in an attack by suspected Fulani herdsmen. The online news reported that the suspected herdsmen were said to have raided four villages: Demsare, Wunamokoh, Dikajam and Taboungo in what is believed to be a vengeance mission over an existing feud with farmers in the area. Several houses and other properties in the villages were also burnt in the attack. As at July 2018, many residents were still fleeing Adamawa and Taraba due to incessant attacks that were connected with Farmers-Herdsmen clashes (Goke, 2018 and Akorede, 2018).

The Orgy of the Conflicts in the North-West

On August 3, 2016, it was reported that some armed Fulani herdsmen killed at least five villagers in Jama's Local government of Kaduna state (News 24). Just like in other places, the cause of the disagreement was competition over grazing right. As reported by Vanguard (2014), another attack took place in Kaduna state on 9 March, 2014, with over 57 gunmen, suspected to be Fulani herdsmen attacked the community of Angwan Sakwai in Kaura Local Government Area and killed over 57 people (men, women and children). Houses were burnt and properties destroyed (Vanguard, 2014). The Punch (2016) reported that in another encounter, on Thursday, 13 October 2016, two police officers were ambushed and killed by suspected Fulani herdsmen along Kagoro Gidan Waya road in Kaura Local Government Area. In the attack, at a check point in the area, two other police officers were said to have sustained injuries while two escaped unhurt. The Godogodo area of Southern Kaduna in Jama'ah Local Government Area witnessed the killing of 20 persons between 15 and 16 October, 2016, by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen. Also affected in the attack were several people who sustained various degrees of injuries. Consequent upon this attack, a 24 hour curfew was imposed on the local government by the State government (Punch, 2016). On the 17 October 2016, in what seemed like a reprisal attack for the 20 people killed at Godogodo on the 15 and 16 October 2016, some suspected youths, resident in southern Kaduna were reported to have attacked, hacked and burnt 14 men, suspected to be herdsmen (Punch, 2016). According to (Goke, 2018), between July 2017 and July 2018, not less than 187 people have been killed in the North-West geo-political zone during attacks not unconnected with farmers-herdsmen clashes.

Herdsmen and Farmers Conflicts in Enugu State

In Enugu State, over 46 people were killed in Nimbo community in an attack allegedly carried out by over 500 Herdsmen (Vanguard, 2016). Although, a threat was said to have been issued out by the attackers prior to the event, but nevertheless executed successfully. Security agents were reported to have responded to the threat by strategically stationing themselves in the community. But the attackers tarried until when the security agents had left the community before they carried out the retaliatory attack (Premium Times, 2016). They were also said to have fled before the security agents came back. It was reported in the Vanguard of Thursday, April 27, 2016 that over 2000 people were displaced, 40 injured and many houses and churches were destroyed as a result of the attack. Both the Senate President and the House of Representative Speaker were reported to have said, on different occasions that the farmers-herdsmen attack was threatening national unity and capable of disintegrating the country. Abia State witnessed attacked by a group of suspected Fulani herdsmen in Abam community of Arochukwu Local Government Area. Thisday (2016; Chukwurah, et al 2020) reported that the incident was said to have occurred on the farms of the farmers when they were harvesting their crops (rice) on 14 November, 2016 with several people killed and others sustained various degree of injuries. As at May, 2018, killings associated with Farmers-Herdsmen clashes have not been fully stopped (Oyedotun, 2018).

Causes/Consequences of Farmer-Herdsmen conflict

The causes of Farmer-Herdsmen conflicts are often not far-fetched. However, there appears to be no consensus among both groups as to the causes of their mutual conflict. According to Haan (2012), 'destruction of crops by cattle and other property (irrigation equipment and infrastructure) by the pastoralists themselves are the main direct causes for conflicts cited by the farmers, whereas burning of rangelands and FADAMA and blockage of stock routes and water points by crop encroachment are important direct reasons cited by the pastoralists'. Ega, and Erhabor (2009) reported that the key underlying causes of farmer-herdsmen conflict in Nigeria are:

Changing resource access rights, whereby traditional access rights to communal grazing and water resources are being obstructed by the individual tenure ship of arable farmers. This is particularly severe on the traditional trek routes, which become favorite

cropping sites because of their better soil fertility resulting from the concentration of animal manure from the trekking herds in these areas. Within the fadama areas, this is exacerbated by the fragmented nature of the crop plots, which makes prevention of animals straying in the crop plots difficult; Inadequacy of grazing resources, as increasing crop cultivation (and increasing commercialization of the crop-residues) and poor management of the existing grazing reserves have resulted in a significant reduction in available livestock feed resources, in particular in the Northern States. Moreover the high value crops introduced by NFDP (tomatoes and onions) produce almost no crop-residues for livestock feeding. Finally, the regulation that twenty percent of the fadama would need to be set aside for grazing (National Agricultural Policy, 1988) has not been adhered to;

And Decline in internal discipline and social cohesion, as the adherence to the traditional rules regarding grazing periods, and the authority of the traditional rulers is breaking down. This is exacerbated by increased rent seeking of the formal and traditional authorities in managing resource access. De Haan (2012) also noted that antagonistic perceptions and beliefs among farmers and herdsmen could compound conflict situation, especially due to failing institutions and fierce competition for resources.

Another cause of farmer-herdsmen conflicts is increasing rate of cattle theft which is often accompanied by violence. Other perceived causes of farmer-herdsmen conflicts include inequitable access to land, diminishing land resources, antagonistic values among user groups, policy contradictions, and non-recognition of rights of indigenous people Adisa (2011a). Whatever the causes of Farmer-Herdsmen conflicts are, it is evident that the conflicts have been of great negative effects. These range from economic effects (such as loss of income/resources/yield) to physical (such as home/farm destruction, bodily injury or death of family member) and socio-psychological effects such as emotional exhaustion, job dissatisfaction (Adisa, 2011). The causes and effects of farmer-herdsmen conflict have attracted considerable theoretical and empirical analyses, but conflict actors and victims' coping mechanisms have not received sufficient attention in the literature (Adisa, 2011). The main thrust of this chapter is to analyze conflict actors' coping strategies and the implications for rural development in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY AND THEORETICAL REVIEW

Theoretical Review

Resource Access Theory

The theory which originated in 1970s was propounded by Jeffrey Pfeffer and Gerald R. Sananak believes that conflict has ever been a recurring decimal in the history of humanity. More often than not, this is as a result of competition for scarce resources in human society. Sikor & Lund (2009) make an important observation that access to natural resources is often contested and rife with conflict at many levels. The need for people to legitimize their rights and access to natural resources has remained central in competition and contestation for natural resources. According to the theorist, resource ownership and utilisation have directly and indirectly define the dimensions of most conflict involving man since time immemorial. Of all resources, however, the land has remained an overwhelming source of conflict among various user groups as well as individuals at varying threshold. The theory also helps us to have a better understanding of the prevalence herders and farmers conflict in Nigeria. The inability of the Fulani herdsmen to have unhindered access to grazing areas/reserves is to a significant extent responsible for why they often go into conflict with host communities and farmers in Nigeria. The theory sees access to a resource as the main cause of conflict and violence (Ikezie & Ezeah, 2017; Chukwurah, et al 2020). Due to restricted access, the herdsmen resorted to taking the laws into their hands by forcing their animals into people's farmlands thereby destroying farm produce in the process. The herdsmen believed that they should have unhindered access to grazing routes which they see as their God's given right and any attempt to deny them this right will be challenged. On the other hand, farmers may not be willing to allow the herdsmen access to their farmlands and may always resort to violence to

challenge the excesses of the herdsmen. In relation to this study, farmer-herdsmen conflict in the use of agricultural land are becoming fiercer and increasingly widespread in Nigeria, largely due to 'intensification and intensification' of production activities that are necessitated by increasing human population (Adisa & Adekunle, 2010). However, in spite of the contributions of the resource access theory to the understanding of herdsmen and farmers conflict, numerous aspects of the theory have been questioned. It has been criticized for lack of focus on the individual. Lastly, the theory fails to explain why certain feelings of deprivation or denied access to resources are transformed into collective action, whereas in some similar situations, no collective effort is made to reshape society. In spite of the shortcomings of the resource access theory, the theory is still useful in explaining herdsmen/farmers conflict in Nigeria.

Eco-Violence Theory

This study is anchored on Eco-violence Theory. The theory was developed in 1999 by Homer-Dixon. The theory is useful to understand the rising impasse between Farmers and Herdsmen. Homer-Dixon focuses on population variables. He views population pressure as closely linked to the potential scarcity of renewable resources. While he argues that resource scarcities can cause violent intrastate conflict under unfavourable conditions. Homer-Dixon (1999) asserts that large populations in many developing countries are highly dependent on four key environmental resources that are fundamental to their livelihood: fresh water, cropland, forests and fish. Scarcity or shrinking of these resources as a result of misuse, over-use or degradation, population growth, climate change and resource access lead to competition over the scarce ecological resources among groups, and may under certain circumstances trigger off conflict. The theory assumes that competition over scarce ecological resources engenders violent conflict. This trend has been aggravated in contemporary times owing to the impacts of climate change, which has exacerbated ecological scarcity across the world (Onuoha, 2007). The theory contends that conflict have been driven by the desperation of the affected groups to protect and advance their livelihood interests in the context of ever shrinking ecological space, characterized by resource-scarcity, a livelihood crisis, population explosion, and resource competition. The theorist argued that resource scarcity forces groups in society into resource capture or competition, which in turn causes ecological marginalization and violent conflict among groups. The theory believes that population growth, a decrease in the quality and quantity of renewable resources, and resource access act singly or in various combinations to increase the scarcity, for certain population groups, of cropland, water, forests, and fish (Adeoye, 2017). The desperate quest for survival by groups in a competitive and resource-scarce ecological sphere is likely to precipitate violent conflict. The rising wave of militancy among the Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria is principally driven by a dire struggle for survival in an environment that is competitive and hostile to their collective sustainable livelihood. Eco-violence theory is based on the assumption that competition over scarce ecological resources engenders violent conflict in relation to this study, farmer-herdsmen conflict have been driven by the scarcity of land, and competition between the farmers and herdsmen to ensure their viability in the area. The scarcity of land is due to the degradation and shrinking ecological space, human and cattle population explosion, and resource depletion. Therefore, the farmers need the land for cultivation, while the herdsmen need the land for grazing and rearing of cattle. The ultimate cause of the conflict between farmers and herdsmen lie in the general degradation of resources and the increased competition for access and resources capture (Tonah, 2006; Chukwurah, et al 2020). Critics have argued that though the fundamental theoretical assumption of the theory is that resource scarcity is the product of an insufficient supply that forces some sector of a society into a condition of deprivation, the nature of the farmer-herdsmen conflict in the North Central. Despite the criticisms, the theory of eco-violence offers insights into the nature and dynamics of the herdsmen/farmers conflict in Nigeria.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was adopted in this study as well as simple random sampling technique by selecting 13 farmers from each village thereby giving a total of 92 farmers According to Nworgu (2015), descriptive survey design is the one in which a group of people and items are studied by collecting and analyzing the data from only a few people considered to be representative of the entire group. Here, data were gathered from a large number of respondents who constituted the sample that was representative of the population of interest. These data collection was important to better understand facts and events, give interpretation and explanation, as well as make predictions about variables. Furthermore, in gathering the data,

a cross sectional research design was deployed whereby a onetime observation was made on the elements of the sample on those variables that were relevant to this research. This study is carried out on the paradox of Herdsmen/Farmers impasse and food security in Uzo -Uwani environment, Enugu state – Nigeria bordering Kogi State and Anambra State. Its headquarters are in the town of Umulokpa. It has an area of 855 km² and a population of 124,480 at the 2006 census. The postal code of the area is 411. Uzo-Uwani experienced bloody terrorist attack on April 25, 2016 in the Nimbo area. Seven Nimbo villages- Ekwuru, Ngwoko, Ugwuijoro, Ebor, Enugu-Nimbo, Umuome and Ugwuachara were invaded, and scores massacred by over 500 heavily armed Herdsmen.

Population of the Study

The study is delimited to the famers from the seven villages with a population of 124,480 inhabitants according to the Nigerian population census.

Sampling Frame

S/N	Villages	Population of famers
1	Ekwuru	12198
2	Ngwoko	17832
3	Ugwuijoro	28691
4	Ebor	13902
5	Enugu-Nimbo	15811
6	Umuome	16781
7	Ugwuachara	19265
	Total	124,480

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected for the study would be presented in table and analysed using frequency distributions and percentage. Z-test was used in testing the hypothesis. The Z-test formula is

$$Z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{s / \sqrt{n}}$$

Where \bar{x} = Sample mean

μ = Population mean

n = Sample size

n- 1 = Degree of freedom

Decision Rule: Accept the alternative hypothesis when the probability value is less than alpha otherwise reject. All the analysis will be tested at alpha level of 0.

ANALYSIS

Data were collected, analyzed using frequency distributions and Z-test

The Z-test formula is

$$Z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{s/\sqrt{n}}$$

Where \bar{x} = Sample mean

μ = Population mean

n = Sample size

n- 1 = Degree of freedom

Decision Rule: Accept the alternative hypothesis when the probability value is less than alpha otherwise reject. All the analysis will be tested at alpha level of 0.

Result of questionnaire distributed to the seven villages and their response rate are shown

Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
Questionnaire distributed	92	
Questionnaire returned	90	98
Questionnaire unreturned	2	2
Total	92	100%

Source: Field Survey 2020.

This shows the number of questionnaire distributed, returned and analyzed. A total of 92 (100%) copies of questionnaire was distributed, 90 (98%) copies of questionnaire was returned and 2 (2%) copies of questionnaire was unreturned because 2 copies of questionnaire were either wrongly filled, half-filled or mutilated beyond usage.

Responses on how insecurity affects the availability of food in Enugu State

S/N	Items	SA	A	UN	D	SD	Total
1	Insecurity result to destruction of farm crops	25(27%)	52(58%)	1(1%)	5(5%)	8(9%)	90(100%)
2	Insecurity leads to violence and as destroy agricultural product	31(34%)	50(56%)	1(1%)	6(7%)	2(2%)	90(100%)
3	Insecurity prevent famers from going to farms	55(61%)	25(27%)	1(1%)	7(8%)	2(2%)	90(100%)
4	Insecurity leads to increasing rate of cattle theft	32(35%)	50(56%)	1(1%)	5(6%)	3(3%)	90(100%)
5	Insecurity leads to destruction of farmers crop by Herdsmen	60(67%)	20(22%)	3(3%)	5(6%)	2(2%)	90(100%)
6	Insecurity leads to social cohesion	20(22%)	58(64%)	2(2%)	1(1%)	9(10%)	90(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

It shows that 27 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that insecurity result to destruction of farm crops, 58 percent agree, 5 percent disagree, 8 percent strongly disagree while 1 percent were undecided.

It shows that 34 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that insecurity leads to violence and as destroy agricultural product, 56 percent agree, 7 percent disagree, 2 percent strongly disagree while 1 percent were undecided.

From the analysis above, it shows that 61 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that insecurity prevent famers from going to farms, 27 percent agree, 8 percent disagree, 2 percent strongly disagree while 1 percent were undecided.

From the analysis above, it shows that 35 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that insecurity leads to increasing rate of cattle theft, 56 percent agree, 6 percent disagree, 3 percent strongly disagree while 1 percent were undecided

From the analysis above, it shows that 67 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that insecurity leads to destruction of farmers crop by Fulani cattle, 22 percent agree, 3 percent disagree, 6 percent strongly disagree while 2 percent were undecided

From the analysis above, it shows that 22 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that insecurity leads to social cohesion, 64 percent agree, 2 percent disagree, 1 percent strongly disagree while 10 percent were undecided

Responses on the causes of Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis in Nigeria

S/N	Item	SA	A	UN	D	SD	Total
7	Changing resource access rights causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises	32(36%)	40(44%)	2(2%)	11(12%)	5(5%)	90(100%)
8	Inadequacy of grazing resources causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises	32(36%)	54(60%)		1(1%)	3(3%)	90(100%)
9	Decline in internal discipline and social cohesion causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises	29(32%)	47(52%)	2(2%)	1(1%)	11(12%)	90(100%)
10	Increasing rate of cattle theft causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises	32(35%)	48(53%)	3(3%)	3(3%)	4(4%)	90(100%)
11	Destruction of farmers crop by fulanis cattle causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises	35(39%)	46(51%)		3(3%)	6(6%)	90(100%)
12	Destructions of farms and regular grazing of a particular farm land by Fulani men causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises	34(38%)	51(57%)		3(3%)	2(2%)	90(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

From the analysis above, it shows that 36 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that changing resource access rights causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises, 44 percent agree, 12 percent disagree, 5 percent strongly disagree while 2 percent were undecided.

From the analysis above, it shows that 36 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that inadequacy of grazing resources causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises, 60 percent agree, 1 percent disagree, 3 percent strongly disagree.

From the analysis above, it shows that 32 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that decline in internal discipline and social cohesion causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises, 52 percent agree, 1 percent disagree, 11 percent strongly disagree while 1 percent were undecided

From the analysis above, it shows that 32 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that increasing rate of cattle theft causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises, 53 percent agree, 3 percent disagree, 3 percent strongly disagree while 3 percent were undecided.

From the analysis above, it shows that 39 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that destruction of farmers crop by fulanis cattle causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises, 51 percent agree, 3 percent disagree, 6 percent strongly disagree while 3 percent were undecided.

From the analysis above, it shows that 38 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that destructions of farms and regular grazing of a particular farm land by Fulani men causes Fulani herdsmen and famers crises, 51 percent agree, 3 percent disagree, 2 percent strongly disagree.

Responses on the level of awareness of Nigerian people on issues relating to food crises in Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	UN	D	SD	Total
13	Am aware that insecurity leads to food scarcity	34(38%)	51(57%)		3(3%)	2(2%)	90(100%)
14	Am aware that insecurity leads to crop destruction	32(36%)	53(59%)	2(2%)	1(1%)	1(1%)	90(100%)
15	Increasing rate of cattle theft leads to food crises	32(36%)	55(61%)		1(1%)	2(2%)	90(100%)
16	Am aware that there is destruction of farmers crop by Fulani- cattle	36(40%)	40(44%)	3(3%)	5(5%)	6(7%)	90(100%)
17	Am aware that insecurity prevent famers from going to farms	49(54%)	30(33%)	1(1%)	5(5%)	5(5%)	90(100%)
18	Am aware that social cohesion causes food crises.	53(59%)	32(36%)	1(1%)	2(2%)	2(2%)	90(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

From the analysis above, it shows that 38 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that they are aware that insecurity leads to food scarcity, 57 percent agree, 3 percent disagree, 2 percent strongly disagree. From the analysis above, it shows that 36 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that they are aware that insecurity leads to crop destruction e, 59 percent agree, 2 percent disagree, 1 percent strongly disagree while 1 percent were undecided. From the analysis above, it shows that 36 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that increasing rate of cattle theft leads to food crises, 61 percent agree, 1 percent disagree, 2 percent strongly disagree From the analysis above, it shows that 40 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that they are aware that there is destruction of farmers crop by Fulani cattle, 44 percent agree, 3 percent disagree, 5 percent strongly disagree while 7 percent were undecided. From the analysis above, it shows that 54 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that they are aware that insecurity prevent famers from going to farms , 33 percent agree, 1 percent disagree, 5 percent strongly disagree while 5 percent were undecided. From the analysis above, it shows that 59 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that they are aware that social cohesion causes food crises, 36 percent agree, 1 percent disagree, 2 percent strongly disagree while 2 percent were undecided.

Test of Hypothesis using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, 23)

Decision rule: We accept the null hypothesis when the probability value is greater than the alpha value, otherwise we reject it.

Hypotheses I

H_0 : Insecurity does not have a significant effect on the availability of food in Nigeria

H_1 : Insecurity has a significant effect on the availability of food in Nigeria

Descriptive Statistics

Insecurity and availability of food	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
	5	18.400	14.7700	4.00	55.00

Insecurity and availability of food		
N		5
Normal Parameters ^{a,b}	Mean	18.400
	Std. Deviation	14.770
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.129
	Positive	.129
	Negative	-.239
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		.492
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.030

a. Test distribution is Normal. b. calculated from data.

The analysis above shows that the probability value (0.030) is less than the alpha value (0.05), the researcher therefore accept the alternative hypothesis and conclude that insecurity have a significant effect on the availability of food in Nigeria.

Hypotheses II

H_0 : There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of the people on issues relating to food security in Nigeria

H_1 : There is a significant difference in the level of awareness of the people on issues relating to food security in Nigeria

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
level of awareness of the people on issues relating to food security	5	18.400	13.990	9.00	66.00

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov (Z-Test)

		level of awareness of the people on issues relating to food security
N		5
Normal Parameters ^{a, b}	Mean	18.400
	Std. Deviation	13.990
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.129
	Positive	.129
	Negative	-.239
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		.492
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.010

a. Test distribution is Normal. b. Calculated from data

The analysis above shows that the probability value (0.010) is less than the alpha value (0.05), the researcher therefore accept the alternative hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant difference in the level of awareness of the people on issues relating to food security in Nigeria.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings

From the discussion of findings the summary was made

Insecurity have a significant effect on the availability of food in Nigeria.

value = 0.01 < 0.05; 95% confidence interval

(*P* –

There is a significant difference in the level of awareness of the people on issues relating to food security in Nigeria.

(*P* – *value* = 0.030 < 0.05; 95% confidence interval)

Conclusion

From the summary of findings, the researcher concluded that insecurity has a significant effect on the availability of food in Nigeria and that there is a significant difference in the level of awareness of the people on issues relating to food security in Nigeria. This implies that herdsmen crises have a great impact on food crises in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Having discussed the findings and drawn some conclusions therein, the following recommendations were made;

A strong political will from governments at all levels is fundamental to resolving the herdsmen/farmers conflict across the country.

Government should make policies on grazing. There should be the establishment and operation of contemporary grazing reserves in the affected zones. Government should set up conflict mediation, resolution, reconciliation and peace building mechanisms in rural communities, local government areas and states affected by the conflict.

Law enforcement agencies should be alive to their constitutional roles and government must

strengthen the security around the farmers and herders across the country by providing necessary training and state-of-the-art equipment required anytime there is conflict.

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