

**EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF NIGERIAN POLICE
FORCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN TARABA STATE**

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project has been written by me and it is a report of my research work. It has not been presented in any previous application for any Postgraduate Diploma in Security and Strategic Studies. All quotations are indicated and sources of information specifically acknowledged by means of references.

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project titled “Security Management Strategies and Herders Farmers Conflict in Benue State, Nigeria” meets the regulations governing the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Security and Strategic Studies, School of Postgraduate Studies, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, and is approved for its contribution to knowledge.

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DEDICATION

I dedicated this project to Almighty God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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ABSTRACT

This study examines how well the police in Taraba North Senatorial District have been able to administer criminal justice, especially against the backdrop of allegations of gross abuse of power arrest, detention, investigation and prosecutions as well as operational inefficiency often leveled against them by critics. To assess the level of credibility in these allegations the researcher administered questionnaires on one hundred crime suspect and fifty police officers selected from the five police divisions out of the existing eight in Taraba North Senatorial District. Though, not all the questions in the questionnaire were freely answered by the respondents for fear of apprehension. They were thus assured that every information, that was released by them will enjoy top confidentiality. At the end of the whole exercise it was discovered that the police have not been able to live up to expectation as a results of an over weighing influence of their own sub-culture which is largely emphasized by brutality, bribery and corruption as well as outright lack of motivation among serving police officers. The study recommended an overhauling of criminal justice system among other recommendations.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Security of lives and properties of the citizen is the social contract between the state and the citizen. As the population increase, material resources becomes scares, hence makes conflicts between herders and farmers inevitable. Natural resource conflicts are pervasive in Africa, West African sub-region and Nigeria in particular is not an exception (Gbanite, 2001).

Over time, agriculture and pastoralism have coexisted side-by-side for centuries with many herding and farming communities developed interdependent relationships through reciprocity and support. At the same time, conflicts between herders and farmers have arisen for centuries which adversely affect security of lives and properties (Chabal, Engel & Gentili 2005). Recently, a number of these disputes have escalated into widespread violence and displacement of people. In some cases, herder-farmer conflicts are articulated with other ethnic, political, and religious violence. For example, in 2004, former President Obasanjo declared a state of emergency in Plateau State, Nigeria, when herder-farmer conflicts resulted in near-mutual genocide of Christians and Muslims with more than 20,000 refugees fleeing to neighboring Cameroon (Richards, 2005b). However, Herder-farmer conflicts are often considered local, endemic, low-intensity conflicts and not wars, they have been largely ignored in the burgeoning literature on violent conflicts in Africa and elsewhere (Lind & Sturman, 2002).

Herder-farmer conflicts not only have a direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of those involved, they also disrupt and threaten the sustainability of agricultural and

pastoral production in West Africa and elsewhere. According to Richards (2005a), ignoring these clashes is unwise because local conflicts may escalate into real wars that may lead to ethnic violence along the occupational boundary of farming and herding.

Conflict is an inevitable feature of every human society and conflict over resources is not unnatural in societies where natural resources determine the means of livelihood and survival. The evolution of human society itself attests to the fact that every individual and group in the society has experienced one form of conflict or the other, especially over resources which serves as the hub of their survival and social relations are not devoid of conflicts which usually lead to changes in social relations, adjustment and adaptation (Gefu & Kolawole, 2002). These conflicts are usually induced by scarcity of environmental resources and escalated by the feelings of neglect, marginalization and outright deprivation of the utilization of these resources.

In a related development, conflict over resources has been found to arise as a result of scarcity, miss-management, uneven allocation of resources and environmental related issues. Natural resources have been postulated to be the major driver of conflict, security risk, violence and civil wars in the twenty-first century and the attention of the world has shifted to the lethal roles that environmental resources play in conflict situation in the 21st century (Moritz, 2010). The reason for this postulation is the pivotal roles environmental resources play in the local and national economy of any state, irrespective of its level of modernity.

Natural or environmental resources are the bulk of renewable and non-renewable stocks of material resources that exist in the natural environment that are both scarce and economically useful in production and consumption, either in their raw state or

after a minimal amount of processing (WTO, 2010). These renewable resources serve as the main input in production process for both herdsmen and farmers in every clime and regions of the world. While farmers depend on land and usable water for the cultivation of arable and cash crops, and rearing of domestic animals for subsistence (personal consumption) or for commercial purposes, herdsmen heavily rely on water, safer climate and arable lands for the survival and productivity of their herds of cattle. In essence, land and water are prime renewable resources that play pivotal roles in the production process of both herdsmen and farmers. Therefore, conflict between these two groups of resource users is always centered on the scarcity, deprivation and uneven allocation of these resources in history and recent times.

One of the primary roles of the state is to provide peace and security for its citizens within the nation-state, to ensure their protection against threats from outside (Naidoo, 2000). Every responsible government will treat human security and peace building concerns with utmost priority. According to Chapter II, Section 14 (b) of the Nigerian Constitution, the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary duty of government. Within the framework of global social system, human security has become a contemporary social issue for understanding global dispositions. The supporters of human security and peace building initiative challenge the conventional notion of national security, thus, arguing that the focal point of security should be the individual. They submitted that a people centered security is quintessential for national, regional and global stability. Supporting the above, El-Baradei (2006) expressed the view that the quest of humanity for peace is not confined to one region as the search for security is still a major concern for people and nations. The current security picture on a global scale is not entirely free from violence as presumed, because the world has rarely been more peaceful or felt so secure.

The importance of internal security in a state like Nigeria has been carefully articulated by Gbanite (2001) that when the citizens' right to safety from all kinds of man-made threats are reduced considerably. It is imperative to note that Nigeria has been facing severe security challenges over a long period of time, which resulted in the increasing spate of ethnic militia in Nigeria and their continuous attacks on both the government and the citizens.

Understandably, the security situation between 2007 and 2015 in Nigeria obviously took different dimensions. These period, however, witnessed a consistent pressure on the government by Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Movement for the Sovereign State of Biafra (MOSSOB), increasing spate of kidnapping in the South - East Geo – Political Zone, incessant bombings in the northern parts of Nigeria by Boko Haram group, Mehem by the Islamic assailants in Jos crisis, politically motivated killings by unscrupulous groups, herder-farmer conflicts among others (Ameh, 2008). Consequently, the inability of the managers of Nigeria's security to address the country's security challenges during the above period raised yet another critical question on the preparedness of Nigeria to attain desired political, social and economic heights in the year 2020. It further poses serious threats to the unity and corporate existence of Nigeria as a sovereign state. One of the major consequences of the perennial conflict, attacks and counter-attacks between herdsmen and farmers in North Central Nigeria is massive death toll of many innocent lives and actors involved in the conflict. Olayoku (2012) noted that between the year 2006 and 2014, Nigerian Watch Database recorded 615 violent deaths related to cattle in the year 2006, 22 deaths were recorded after the herdsmen farmers conflict in 2006, 54 in 2007, 31 in 2008, 83 in 2009, 39 fatalities in 2010 and a massive increase in death toll

in 2011 which puts the figure at 116, 128 deaths in 2012, 115 deaths in 2013 and a total of 27 deaths was recorded in 2014.

The Institute of Economics and Peace (2015) which rated the Fulani militant as the fourth deadliest terrorist group in the world as at 2014 Global Terrorism Index report records the dramatic increase in the attacks by Fulani Militants from 2010 to 2013 with 80 deaths recorded to a skyrocketing increase in the death toll to 1,229 in 2014 alone. Unlike deaths from Boko Haram which are mainly in the North, majority of the deaths accruable from herdsman farmers conflict occurred majorly in the North Central and some of the North Western, Eastern and some Southern States in Nigeria.

On 25th April, 2016, seven villages in Ukpabi-Nimbo town a border town in Uzo Uwani in Enugu State were attacked by over 500 heavily armed Fulani herdsman who killed over 48 villagers and left many injured (Ikenwa & Adeyemi, 2016). Also, between February 8 and July 17, 604 farmers and locals were killed in Agatu, Guma, Logo and Tarkaa Local Government Area of Benue State. Recently, 11 villagers were killed and two villages burnt down because of what (Binniyat, 2016) calls vengeance mission of the herdsman on Godogodo Chiefdom in Jema'a Local Government Area in Southern part of Kaduna State. Also, in Plateau State, a First Class Traditional Ruler, Sir Lazarus Agai, his driver and police men were killed on the way from his farm on 17th October, 2016 (Owuamanam, 2016).

The increasing number of reports of violence at this stage makes understanding herder-farmer conflicts an urgent task. There is need to know not only the cause of the conflict, but also the nature of the conflict (religious, ethnic, and political undertones). Perhaps the most crucial question is why the conflict between herders and farmers has escalated into widespread violence.

Given the destruction and negative effect of this conflicts to the economy and its persistency, this work will attempt to analyze the security managing strategies of the conflict and how the strategies can be improved upon so as to bring the conflict to an end or barest minimum.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Since the start of 2017, Nigerians have been served bloody reminders that Boko Haram is no longer the country's biggest internal security threat. States in Nigeria's middle belt have been rocked by attacks from suspected Fulani herdsmen in a new wave of violence which primarily stems from disputes over grazing areas for cattle. Attacks in villages in Benue state since the start of January have left 73 people dead. With communities razed and buildings destroyed, the state emergency agency says 40,000 people have been displaced by the attacks. Yet no known empirical studies that has been conducted to examined that security management strategies to address the conflicts between herdsmen and farmers in the affected areas.

Ajuwon (2004), is of the view that conflict over resources is not unusual in societies where natural resources determines the means of livelihood and survival. The evolution of human society itself attests to the fact that every individual and group in the society has experienced one form of conflict or the other, especially over resources which serves as the hub of their survival (Adogi, 2013). These conflicts are usually induced by scarcity, miss-management, uneven allocation of resources, environmental related issues, feelings of neglect, marginalization, uneven distribution and outright deprivation of the utilization of these resources. Incessant resource-based conflicts between farmers and herdsmen if not checkmated could undoubtedly

undermine food security delivery as well as the peaceful coexistence of the citizenry (Adogi, 2013).

Farmer-herdsmen conflict has attracted considerable empirical and theoretical analyses within the academia in recent times. However, most of the previous studies conducted in Nigeria has failed to take into consideration the security management strategies but rather concentrate on other aspects of herder-farmer conflicts. For instance, Fasona and Omojola (2005) investigated climate change, human security and communal clashes in Nigeria, Gefu, and Kolawole (2002) examined conflict in common property resource use. Further, Oche (2001) studied democratization and the Management of African Security, Odoh, and Chigozie (2012) investigated climate change and conflict in Nigeria, Okoli, Enyinnia, Elijah and Okoli (2014) conducted their study on cattle management of pastoralist and conflict resolution strategies. In addition, Olayoku (2014) investigated the trends and patterns of cattle grazing in Nigeria while Adisa (2012) studied land use conflict between Farmers and Herdsmen.

A purview of such studies as reviewed in the literature indicated that none of the studies has been conducted to examine the effect of security management strategies in addressing the farmer-herder conflicts in Benue. This is the intellectual omission this thesis will filled by examining security management strategies on conflict between herdsmen and farmers in north central Nigeria.

It is lieu of the above gap identify from previous studies that this thesis is poised to focus on the causes and consequences of these security challenges and the impact of the management strategies adopted in resolving the crises. It is hereby posited, that

without addressing the conflicts between farmers and herdsmen, food insecurity could persist in Nigeria for a very long time. Although the Benue State Government have successfully enacted Anti-Open Grazing Law in 2017 as part of strategy to end the farmer – herdsmen conflict, there is still much to be done in order to achieve permanent peace in the State.

1.3 Research Questions

In appraising and evaluating the security management strategies and herders-farmers' conflict in Benue State, the thesis is poised to answer the following questions:

- i. What is the nature and dimension of the farmers-herders conflict in Benue State?
- ii. What are the strategies used to bring the conflict between herders and farmers to the barest minimum in Benue State?
- iii. How has existing security management strategies addressed this conflict?
- iv. How can permanent peace be achieved between Benue communities and herders?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general purpose of the study is to investigate the effect of security management strategies on farmer-herdsmen conflicts in Benue State, North Central Nigeria. Specific objectives are:

- i. To examine the nature and dimension of the farmer-herder conflict in Benue State.
- ii. To examine the existing security management strategies (ESMS) employed by the government to address the farmer-herder conflict.

- iii. To identify ways of achieving permanent peace between the Benue communities and herders.
- iv. To recommend strategies for bringing the conflict between farmers and herders to the barest minimum.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This work will examine the effect of security management strategies on farmer-herdsmen conflicts in Benue State, North Central Nigeria. The Chiefs are interested in gaining revenues from land and natural resources by releasing them to migrants, including herders. This could create pressures on local resources and affects farmers' management of fallow land. This could also result in herders encroaching into farming areas and farmers moving into herding areas. The pressure on resources and encroachment of cattle onto farm lands, where they destroy crops, resulting in increased tensions between herders and farmers which breaks out into violent confrontations. The causes and effects of farmers-herdsmen conflict has attracted considerable theoretical and empirical analyses, but security management actors and victims' coping strategies have not received sufficient attention in the academia.

The study will contribute to the academic debate on the varied forms of security management strategies adopted in resolving the famers herdsmen conflict in Benue State as not much has been done by other researcher to address these problems. That is why the researcher is embarking on this study to unravel the mystery behind the persistent conflict between farmers and herders and the solutions to achieving a pasting peaceful coexistence.

It will also help to gain insight into ways by which minority groups are alienated from the use of natural resources, especially land, in situations where access to land

boosts the economic might of these minority population at the expense of indigenous groups. This research will help government to formulate policies that will help in addressing the problems. This will also proffer solution in resolving the problem that has international dimension.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study is posited to address security management strategies and farmer-herdsmen conflicts in Benue State, Nigeria from 2008-2017. This period witnessed series of conflicts in the State and the height of it is in 2011 where herders invaded as sack communities leading to refugees' problem and blockade of major roads.

The study will focus on the nature and dimension of the farmer-herder conflict, the existing security management strategies (ESMS) employed by the government to address the farmer-herder conflict and identify ways of achieving permanent peace between the farmers and herders. The analysis will focus on the conflicts in Tomaatar (Logo local government), Ayilamo (Guma local government) and Omusu (Okpoku Local government).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Framework

This section of the study will provide some definition of constructs used in the study. Such construct include security, strategy and conflict management. The conceptualization is discuss below:

2.1.1 Concept of Security

There are divergent approaches to conceptualizing security which is the antithesis of insecurity. Security need was the basis of the social contract between the people and the state, in which people willingly surrendered their rights to an organ (government) who oversees the survival of all.

Several attempts have been made since the cold war ended to redefine the concept of security from a state-centric perspective to a broader view that places premium on individuals, in which human security that embodies elements of national security, human rights and national development remain major barometer for explaining the concept. At the heart of this debate there have been attempts to deepen and widen the concept of security from the level of the states to societies and individuals, and from military to non-military issues (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013; Kruhmman, 2003).

According to Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) the divergent approaches to the conceptualization of security in the theoretical literature can be categorized into two major strands. One is a neo-realist theoretical strand that conceptualizes security as primary responsibilities of the state. The second strand, a postmodernist or plural view, conceptualizes security as the responsibilities of non-state actors and displaces

the state as a major provider of security. Proponents of this approach argue that the concept of security goes beyond a military determination of threats. They are of the view that government should be more concern with the economic security of individual than the security of the state because the root causes of insecurity are economic in nature.

In this light security embodies the mechanism put in place to avoid, prevent, reduce, or resolve violent conflicts, and threats that originate from other states, non-state actors, or structural socio-political and economic conditions.

Some scholars in conceptualizing security placed emphasis on the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, political and socio-economic objectives of a country (Igbuzor, 2011; Oche, 2001; Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013). Thus there is a general consensus in the contemporary literature that security is vital for national cohesion, peace and sustainable development. It is therefore apparent that national security is a desideratum, sine qua non for economic growth and development of any country (Oladeji & Folorunso, 2007). In the intelligence community there is a consensus that security is not the absence of threats or security issues, but the existence of a robust mechanism to respond proactively to the challenges posed by these threats with expediency, expertise, and in real time.

Insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. According to Beland (2005) insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Achumba (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly insecurity is the state of being exposed

to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune.

These definitions of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. In the context of this paper insecurity is defined as a breach of peace and security, whether historical, religious, ethno-regional, civil, social, economic, and political that contributes to recurring conflicts, and leads to wanton destruction of lives and property.

Security according to Sato (2004) is a concept that bonds peace and development. It is all about liberating humans from physical and artificial hindrances such as war, poverty or political oppression, which prevent people from choosing freely and acting freely on what they have chosen. In this regard, human security as a concept encompassing all kinds of threats to human survival, human life and human dignity, and requiring strengthened measures to tackle such threats.

In a similar, perspective, Conteh-Morgan (2005), assert that the relationship between human security and peace building has to begin with a broad conceptualization of security that takes into consideration the individual situated in a broader social structure. Such a conceptualization should include institutional sources of security – harmful actions and neglect of institutions that undermine human rights and human security. These include among others the collapse of the welfare system, the politicization and the neglect of the military, the unprofessionalism of the paramilitary and the police forces that were once an integral part of the neo-patrimonial system.

Consequently, Checkel (1997) and Conteh-Morgan (2005) jointly advanced that sustained peace building occurs when one understands the true nature of things in the

society – class, gender, ethnic equality etc. We also have individual sources of human insecurity- harmful actions directed against people or property with visible and immediate consequences. There are banditries, lootings, and intense communal strife among others with women and children being the worst affected. Human security is an important precondition for sustained peace building at any point in time which in turn provides the foundation for regional and global peace and stability. Human security needs national security because the former can only be promoted and sustained in an atmosphere of inter-geopolitical/ zonal peace and stability. Again, national peace can only be promoted and guaranteed if the constituent states experience domestic peace built on secured communities.

However, when the seven dimensions of human security as contained in the 1994 UNDP human development report which are: Economic security, Food security, Health security, Environmental security, Personal security, Community security and, Political security, when there are grossly undermined, then sustainable peace cannot be established. The above have been identified as typical problem areas which threaten human security. It is however recognized that human insecurity should not be limited to these seven. That is to say that the problem of employment, income food and others are not only problems of development, but problems of human security: thus security and development are two sides of the same coin. It is further recognized that development is related to conflict prevention. For when there is an atmosphere of peace, development is guaranteed.

Nevertheless, the UNDP proposal of 1995 during the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, confirmed that social development, social justice, and peace as well as security are inseparable. This underscores the UNDP theory of human security

which regards social injustice as a structural problem threatening peace and development- a problem which must be tackled. The expectation is that in the pursuit of human security and peace building, the national institutions must be change agents. These institutions must possess the political will to challenge the status quo. The institutions must be sufficiently empowered and given the mandate to alter and direct the affairs of things for positive change to occur. To pursue human security is to enhance the national capability to advance universal values among the citizens and enthrone development for the good of all.

Security is a situation/condition free of injury/threats to individuals, groups, or community wellbeing. These include freedom from threat and direct attacks on physical and psychological integrity. What therefore motivates the dissatisfied to agitate and their beliefs as marginalized individuals should be seriously taken into consideration instead of merely imposing on them the concept of the government of the day. Peace building with a view to alleviating insecurity involves transforming the social and political environment that fosters intolerable inequality, endangers historical grievances and nurtures adversarial interactions. This may mean the development of social, political, and economic infrastructure that produce tolerable inequality and prevent future violence. When the above are addressed realistically taking into consideration the political, socio- economic, cultural and other environmental conditions, the quest for true peace building will be achieved.

2.1.2 Concept of Strategy

Strategy according to Stellar is both art and science. Strategy is an art because it requires imagination, sensitive thinking, and a capability to visualize the future, and to encourage and connect those who will apply the strategy. Strategy is science because it requires analytical skills, the ability to organize and analyze information and take

well knowledgeable decisions. Without a strategy, an organization is meaningless and weak to changes in the business environment. Strategy acts as some kind of a guidepost for a company's ongoing development. Strategy provides a direction for the company and indicates what must be done to survive, grow and be profitable.

Keneth Andrews (1971) defined strategy as “the pattern of major objectives, purposes or goals and essential policies or plans for achieving the goals, stated in such a way as to define what business the company is in or is to be in and the kind of company it is or is to be.” This definition of strategy emphasizes on purpose and the means by which purpose will be achieved. It also emphasizes on the values and the cultures that the company stand for.

Kenichi Ohmae (2009) defines strategy as “the way in which a corporation endeavors to different itself positively from its competitors, using its relative strengths to better satisfy customer needs.” Ohmae's definition highlights the competitive aspect of strategy and the strengths required to satisfy customer needs. This definition thus aims at customer satisfaction as the driver of the strategy.

According to Glueck (1984), “Strategy is the unified, comprehensive and integrated plan that relates the strategic advantage of the firm to the challenges of the environment and is designed to ensure that basic objectives of the enterprise are achieved through proper implementation process”

A method or plan chosen to bring about a desired future, such as achievement of a goal or solution to a problem. The art and science of planning and marshalling resources for their most efficient and effective use. The term is derived from the Greek word for generalship or leading an army.

2.1.2 Concept of Conflict

According to Fasona and Omojola (2005), the term conflict refers to misunderstanding, disagreement, or divergence of ideas, which result into hating each other, and when management is delayed, it can lead into coercive measures that suggest forceful victory on either party. Conflict arises from differences, both large and small. It occurs whenever people disagree over their values, motivations, perceptions, ideas, or desires. Sometimes these differences appear trivial, but when a conflict triggers strong feelings, a deep personal need is often at the core of the problem. These needs can be a need to feel safe and secure, a need to feel respected and valued, or a need for greater closeness and intimacy (Norman, 2013).

Folger (1997) defined conflict as the interaction of interdependent people who perceive incompatible goals and interference from each other in achieving those goals. These definitions have much in common. First, they indicate the inevitability of conflict in human affairs. Second, they reveal key features of conflict situations. Many of these definitions, for example, stress that conflicts involve interdependent parties who perceive some kind of incompatibility between them.

2.2 Review of Empirical Studies

The study of Geju and Kolawole (2002), revealed that Herder-farmer conflict is usually the product of the existence of incompatible goals, interest and pursuits in which the actors involved may employ the use of violence or not. It usually occurs when the interest of a group is articulated, aggregated and put forward in opposition to the goal or targets of another group. Environmental or resource scarcity is relative decline in the availability (Ruben, 2008), usability and access to renewable resources which are required by man for immediate consumption and production. This scarcity

may be induced by many factors such as changes in agro-pastoral relations, climate change, drought, freshwater scarcity among others. According to Shettima and Tar (2008) it is the interaction between two or more independent resource users in this case, between crop farmers and pastoralist over common environmental resources which includes land, pasture, crop residues and livestock passages and water points (boreholes, wells, streams etc).

An examination of scholastically articles of farmer-herder conflicts have generally been structural in nature, invoking factors shared by all members of both communities. Herders and farmers in many locales make their livelihood within the same geographical, political, and sociocultural conditions, which may be characterized by resource scarcity (Braukämper 2000) or political inequality. While structural factors may and do give rise to many herder-farmer conflicts, it is not the case that all disagreements occurring under the same structural conditions escalate into large-scale, violent clashes that engage whole communities.

If patterns of herder-farmer conflict could be entirely explained by structural factors, we would expect all conflicts in the same stressful context to display not only similar causes, but also similar levels of engagement and violence and similar outcomes. In fact, in many instances (Hagberg 2005), conflict outcomes under the same conditions result in a wide variety of outcomes. In Ghana, for example, crop damages have on numerous occasions resulted in widespread violence between farmer youths and FulBe herders, but this certainly is not always the case (Tonah 2006).

The herder/farmer conflict situation has been interrogated by scholars and analysts from a variety of analytical prisms. An exegesis of some of these contributions is germane in order to situate the subject matter on a sound analytical frame.

In his study, Ayih (2003) associated the herdsmen-farmer conflicts to what he calls “population explosion”, which he attributed to high birth rate and immigration. According to him, People tend to move from Northern and Southern Nigeria into the Middle Belt region where population is relatively low and where there is availability of vast arable land. The consequent rapid growth in population has caused the farmers to struggle for farmland which is becoming scarce by the day. With this development, grazing areas that were hitherto abundant are being taken over by scattered small farms, making grazing in these areas difficult.

Ayih’s contribution is plausible in many respects. For instance, it captures properly the fundamental existential conditions that create the situation of land scarcity and hunger, which in turn, precipitates the herder/farmer conflict. This position agrees nicely with the prevailing thinking on resource conflict literature (Onuoha, 2007; Adogi, 2013). On a general note, Ayih (2003) identified four other crucial factors which tend to be driving the conflict situation under review. These factors, in addition to the variable of population explosion, include desertification of the (northern) region; indigenization of the nomadic grazing communities; Legalization of farming or grazing rights (through land use laws/legislation); and the rise in indiscipline and crime wave (Ayih, 2003).

The aforementioned factors are inter-related to some degrees. For instance, the factor of desertification of the northern ecological belt interfaces with that of population

explosion (as a result of influx of migrant farmers/pastoralists) to create a situation of land scarcity and hunger. Again, indigenization of herding communities' correlates with legalization of farming/grazing rights to engender land tenure (ownership) disputes. The whole variables interact to produce the wave of rising conflicts and contestations between the farming and herding communities.

In his contribution, Adogi (2013) points out that the conflicts between the farmers and herders in Nigeria have been on the rise since the 1990s. According to him Nigeria particular has experienced resource-related communal clashes (often misrepresented or mis-interpreted as ethnic, political and religious clashes) since the beginning of the 1990s. Of particular concern are the clashes between farmers and pastoralists (Fulani), especially in rural areas where the dwellers are predominantly small scale farmers. In an attempt to explain the occurrence of the conflict.

The predominant Fulani herdsmen of the lower Sahel and Sudan Savannah ecologies from the north-west and north-east (of) Nigeria are now migrating and gradually becoming natives in the Middle Belt region to find greener pasture for their herds. This is not acceptable to the root and tuber farmer of the Middle Belt that is already farming close to the climatic margin of cultivation. The farmer fears that Fulani herds will destroy his farmlands. The natural result is clash over right to the lands (Adogi, 2013).

The observation implicit in the foregoing citation is that the herder/farmer conflict in Nigeria has been, in the main, occasioned by the rising migration and settlement of the Fulani pastoralists in the state in search of arable grazing fields. The movement

brings the herders into conflictive relations with the native farming communities, who are often bent on asserting their exclusive right to land tenure and inheritance in that context. This movement of the pastoralists must be understood as a consequence of the global trend of climate change, leading to increasing desertification of the wider northern Nigeria.

In his seminal work on natural resource conflict in north-central Nigeria, Blench (2010), among other things, sought to establish the nexus between pastoral migration and increased herder/farmer conflicts in the ecological zone. The outcome of this study implicated climate change, desertification and drought, land tenure and scarcity, as well as pastoral migration as factors that account for the spiral farmer/herder conflict in the region. This corroborates the dominant scholarly standpoint on the subject matter, as we have seen in the foregoing.

To conceive of the conflict simply in terms of ‘clash of economic interests’ is, at best, reductionist. Granted that economic conditions are crucial to explicating the conflict situation, it ought to be noted that what really gives the conflicts decisive impetus is their socio-ecological underpinnings. In this sense, the issue of economic interests should be treated as secondary (symptom rather than cause) in trying to come to terms with the real essence and substance of the conflict. It must be noted, however, that recent developments have revealed the culpability of politico-primordial variables in predisposing the conflict under review. In this regard, Adogi (2013) observes that politicization of the already conflictive farmer/herder relations in that context has contributed in complicating the situation. This politicization is achieved through

subtle mobilization of clannish, ethnic, religious, and other parochial sentiments in prosecuting group struggles.

The problem with this trend is the complication of conflicts in such a manner that produces dicey outcomes. In the case of the situation in Nigeria, this has introduced a level of ethno-religious primordialism into the herder/farmer debacle. In this regard, the farmers who are predominantly Christian are want to consider the Fulani herders (who are, incidentally, largely Muslim) as religious cum political foes; and vice versa.

From the point of view of the vast extant literature and official documents, the farmer/herder conflicts in Nigeria have been engendered by interplay of factors, prominent among which are

disputes arising from claims and contestations regarding land ownership and use; struggles for grazing/farm fields in the light of the diminution of arable land in the state; destruction of farmlands/farm-crops by Fulani herd; provocation of parties – farmers and herders alike – through trespass on cherished valuables; increasing deprivation and livelihood crisis in the context of growing ecological resource scarcity and lack; politicization of native/nomad differences through mobilization of clannish, ethnic, religious, or other primordial sentiments; increasing pressure on land and resources thereof as a result of rising population; indigenization and sedentarisation of grazing communities in the state; culture of criminal brigandage and opportunism among the youths of both sides of the conflict divide; inefficient land use laws and administration and politicisation of the indigene-ship question.

Indeed, the herder/farmer conflicts in Nigeria have been quite endemic, perennial and intractable. This is so because the prevailing social cum existential conditions in that

context tend to be conducive to such an occurrence. In its unfolding dynamics of degeneration, the conflicts tend to have reached a critical threshold whereby the prospect of its resolution largely appears precarious. The current stage of the situation is characterized by pathological hate and vindictive vendetta, which threaten the mutual wellbeing and co-existence of the parties. What is more, the conflicts often result in rounds of multiplier incidents within a locality.

The herder/farmer conflict in Nigeria holds critical implications for the progress of the country in general. Firstly, it implies negatively for inclusive citizenship in Nigeria. The primordial claims by the natives to exclusive land tenure rights is out of keeping with the constitutional guarantees of inclusive citizenship, which require that every Nigeria has the right to settle and make a living in any part of the country he so pleases. Therefore, any attempt to deny any person or group his/her rights to legitimate settlement and livelihood in any part of the country under the guise of indigene/settler calculus, amounts to the violation of Nigeria's citizenship code.

Secondly, the conflict situation also portends negatively for sustainable peace and development in Nigeria. Given the extent of crisis and violence that has characterized the conflict, it would be obvious to state that such a situation is an enemy of sustainable development both in the affected communities and Nigeria as a whole.

Lastly, the implication of the conflict for Nigeria's national security cannot be over emphasized. The humanitarian, economic, and social consequences of the conflict have been manifold and telling. The attendant security and livelihood crises threaten the collective subsistence and survival of the affected populations. There are also

other externalities, such as diminution of agricultural productivity and decline in household capital, all of which do not augur well for societal and national sustainability. It suffices, therefore, to say that the farmer/herder conflict in Nigeria is inimical to human security, and by extension, national security in Nigeria.

According to Noorduyn (2005) Herder-farmer conflicts are complex products of both structures and processes and cannot be explained solely in terms of the environment in isolation. A general theory of herder-farmer conflicts must include both structural and environmental variables. Structural variables are necessary to explain the causes of conflicts, while environmental variables can explain the outcomes of conflicts. In his discussion of ethnic conflicts, Porto (2002) integrates structural and processual approaches as he makes a distinction between conflict-as-startup conditions and conflict-as-process, in which the former refers to the structural dimensions or the underlying or fundamental causes and the latter refers to the situation in which the conflict is in full swing and becomes a self-perpetuating and self-stimulating process. In this framework, the conflict-as-startup conditions are necessary but not sufficient for conflicts to escalate, and the goal is to identify the proximate causes of escalation.

Breusers (2000) argues that most conflicts in the Central Plateau are settled quickly without major complications and rarely are cases brought to administrative authorities, but that this is and has not always been the case. In a similar perspective Oksen (2000), is of the opinion that the symbiosis breaks down and minor conflicts escalate into deadly violence between communities. The underlying or structural reasons for the conflict, according to Barrot, quoting André Marty, is the demise of the symbiotic relations between herders and farmers across West Africa. As livestock

ownership among farmers has increased, they no longer need manure contracts. Moreover, farmers now compete directly with herders for grazing lands, which have been slowly disappearing due to population growth and agricultural expansion.

Barrot's analysis is representative of studies that examine herder-farmer conflicts in order to identify the structural conditions under which they occur. Such studies under-theorize processual variables, which are often glossed over by reference to chance or luck. Barrot (1992) addresses the question of why this particular conflict escalated by stating that it was "simply bad luck that one of these mundane scuffles between farmers and herders ended in a death," i.e., the farmer's death by cudgel blow.

The two main theoretical approaches in the study of herder-farmer conflicts in West Africa are both structural: environmental security and political ecology. Environmental security scholars, like Thomas Homer-Dixon, have emphasized the role of resource scarcity and increasing competition for these scarce resources as the primary, though not the only reason for more frequent and more frequently violent conflicts over natural resources (Homer-Dixon 1999). Political ecologists have challenged Homer-Dixon's thesis that there is a causal link between resource scarcity and violent conflicts (Hartmann 2001). He observes, for example, that herder-farmer conflicts are equally intense in Cote d'Ivoire and Central Cameroon, where grazing areas are relatively abundant. Researchers have identified many environmental factors that contribute to the increasing incidence of conflict between herders and farmers, including resource scarcity, decreasing interdependence of pastoral and agricultural economics, institutional failure to resolve conflicts, the larger political context

(Gausset 2005), historical context or cultural differences between herders and farmers (Beeler 2006).

Benjaminsen and Ba (2009) makes a distinction between proximate and ultimate causes; for example, drought and high cereal prices are proximate causes, whereas impoverishment due to excessive surplus extraction is an ultimate cause. Distinguishing between proximate and ultimate causes is, therefore, useful for understanding how and why herder-farmer conflicts begin. But these structural explanations alone do not explain the variation in conflict outcomes. For example, in the same areas in Nigeria and Burkina Faso where herder-farmer disputes have recently escalated, hundreds of herder-farmer disputes are peacefully resolved every year. A processual analysis that focuses on the dynamics of the conflicts themselves can contribute to a better understanding of why and how some herder-farmer conflicts escalate and most others are peacefully resolved.

Amanor (2011) contends that West African countries have created societies based on notions of first comers and late comers and have integrated migrants into their societies through long distance trade, conquest and slavery (2011). This, he explains, is made evident in the emergence of migrant quarters with their respective headmen in cosmopolitan cities who have established links based on religious and ethnic affiliations (Amanor, 2011). However, Amanor (2011) asserted that the modes of integration have undergone considerable transformations aided by colonial rule. He argues that colonialism altered the initial processes of integration by creating a new category – the economic migrants. This development according to him (Amanor), has created boundaries of exclusion in which the status of the economic migrants is

passed on to their descendants who even though may be integrated in the communities in which they find themselves can never claim to have originated from those communities and may still maintain a distant identity through the use of language and custom.

As economic migrants, Amanor (2011) argues that their presence on the rural moral economy as migrants emerge both as investors with capital for accumulation and as labourers who facilitate the investments of others by selling their power. He contended that the presence of migrants open up new opportunities, the introduction of a variety of commodities, commercial food production, production of export crops and the accumulation of capital. Thus the economic migrant becomes a source of consternation and moral dilemma, which results in attempts to incorporate them into precepts of a moral economy rooted in good citizenship, or to expel them in times of political and economic crisis (Amanor, 2011).

Additionally, Amanor explains that conditions for exclusion becomes more intense when migrants through the accumulation of wealth are able to secure natural resources such as land or compete with local population over access to natural resources. Exclusionary tendencies even become more heightened when local populations perceive chiefs to be in close association with migrants by allocating natural resources to them at their expense. Similarly, the designation economic migrants confer inferior status on people whose labour is exacted, further aggravating stereotypical tendencies (Amanor, 2011). The activities of pastoralists on the other hand have been perceived as backward and environmentally destructive. These notions have been entrenched through the narratives of received wisdom. Received

wisdom according to Leach and Mearns (1996) is an idea or set of ideas sustained through labelling, commonly represented in the form of a narrative, and grounded in a specific cultural policy paradigm.

Scoones (1996) contends that policies geared towards rangeland management discards indigenous herding practices, regarding them as destructive and unproductive and in its place proposes carrying capacity, destocking and rotational grazing as alternative measures that would ensure healthy transhumant practices (Scoones, 1996). He contended that the policy of trying to modernize indigenous pastoral practices was economically and politically motivated. Citing a case study in Zimbabwe, Scoones (1996) asserted that the importation of graded bulls in Rhodesia coupled with effort to improve pasture through —fertilization of natural pastures, veld management and rotational grazing in 1903 was aimed among other things to contribute to beef export to supply domestic requirement, compete with Argentinian beef or supply Britain and South Africa through preferential trade or lose out in the beef industry (Scoones, 1996).

Elaborating further on the concept of received wisdom, Leach and Mearns (1996) asserted that debates about overgrazing, soil erosion, mining of natural resources, wood fuel crisis and the desertification of dry lands are backed by powerful forces of environmental policy change in Africa. In their view, these notions are strongly articulated in professional circles and popularized by the media. They argue that the agents through which the received wisdom agenda is propagated include African government, international donor agencies and non-governmental organizations. In their view, the received wisdom narratives are meant to attract support from donor

organizations to help curb supposed environmental destruction in Africa (Leach & Mearns, 1996). According to them, by portraying African farmers, hunters and herders as agents and victims of environmental change, the narratives create the conducive environment for Africa's land-use practices to be changed in order to make the environment less destructive (Leach & Mearns, 1996).

In addition, Leach and Mearns (1996) contend that even though the issues brought forth by the received wisdom narrative highlights important realities of problems that confront people because they are based on theories and methodologies that make them credible, they must be evaluated periodically in situation where their findings have been proven to be in doubt. To ensure a balance, Leach and Mearns (1996) argue that there should be collaboration that makes it possible to improve upon the ecological knowledge and competence of African farmers and herders in addition to creating the enabling environment where local resource management strategies can be pursued effectively. Moreover, they asserted that the stance of received wisdom should be explored further through historical and time series dataset which takes into consideration the experience and opinions of inhabitants which would pave way for issues in new ecology (Leach and Mearns:1996).

2.2.1 Causes and Consequences of Farmer-pastoralist Conflict

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, 2011b). Bob (2008) state that inequality is often a consequence of political, economic and social processes that concentrate resources in certain hands at the expense of others. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the vast majority of the black population have limited access

to land ownership and related natural resources, resulting in high levels of vulnerability and resultant conflicts over land (Bogale 2006; Rugege 2007).

Pastoralists usually graze over areas outside farm lands, and these have been accepted to be the norm from time immemorial. Their movements are opportunistic and follow pasture and water resources in a pattern that varies seasonally or year-to-year according to availability of resources (FAO, 2011). The patterns of movement may be controlled by seasonal climate variations. However, increase in population, drying of waterholes, shifting in rainfall pattern leading to drought as a result of the changing climate affects both sectors of agriculture. At the same time, household agricultural production systems are becoming more and more integrated into the global economy, thereby increasing the demand and pressure need of arable land values. These, coupled with the ineptitude of arable land governance and the increase widespread of economic hardship creates avenue for resource conflicts. Both customary and statutory land management systems are often not responding adequately to the tenure insecurity these changes bring (Djire, 2014).

Extensive livestock production in the form of pastoral livestock keeping is among the most suitable means of land use in arid areas of Africa because of its adaptability to highly variable environmental conditions (McCarthy, 2000). Livestock here signifies cattle, sheep and goats. In Nigeria, most pastoralists do not own land but graze their livestock in host communities (Awogbade, 1987). While a few have adopted the more sedentary type of animal husbandry, the increasing crises between farmers and pastoralist presupposes that grazing is a major means of animal rearing in Nigeria. The sedentary type of animal husbandry also proves to be more expensive, difficult to

manage and inefficient for the rapid growing market of an ever increasing populations like Nigeria. Pastoralism remained the most ancient trade that is still strong and self-provisioning. While many pastoral regions are the focus of current farmer-pastoralist conflict studies, the long history of sustainability and resilience evidenced by these cultures and their contribution to the economy is of great interest.

In Nigeria, there is a large proportion of the population involved in herding and are making a significant contribution to the economy. The groups of people that are actively involved in pastoral activities in Nigeria are the Kanembu, Kwoya, Manga, Fulbe (Fulani) and the Shuwa Arabs. The Fulbe are the largest owners of livestock accounting for about 90% of the nation's stock, contributing one third of the Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 3.2% of the national GDP (Fabusoro & Oyegbami, 2009). The Nigerian cattle market generates only 6.8 billion USD of a potential 20 billion USD annually due to local strifes and inability of government to fully recognise the industry (Okello, 2014).

Pastoralism is economically viable to the extent that it contributes significantly to the economy of many developing countries despite continued underinvestment (Hatfield & Davies, 2006). It contributes largely to the growth of local economies, and a cumulative contributor to the nation's GDP and plays a major role in providing on-demand protein to the wider population. In this part of the world, where inland fish is meagre and offshore fishing have not been well explored to provide sea food as part of a diet, meat, milk as well as butter are the major sources of protein.

In addition, thousands of Nigerians make a daily living from the sale, transport, processing and marketing of livestock products that include meat, milk, butter, hides and skins, bones and as ploughing power to farmers. In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) alone, 4,000 goats and over 400 cattle supplied by the Fulbe are slaughtered every day (Okello, 2014). In Yola town, north-east of the country, over 160 cattle, 600 sheep and 450 goats supplied by the Fulbe are slaughtered every day (informant interview). Cattle owners are the only people paying the Jangali (per head cattle levy) to the government since prior to independence (Adebayo, 1995). This tax, being an additional taxing system imposed by the British colonial system still exists (Okello, 2014). There is no doubt that the economic importance of pastoralist is significant to the Nigerian economy.

Past conflicts were solely due to overlap of farmlands with cattle routes, where farmers grow crops on the routes. But recently, this conflict has escalated, taking another dimension of ethnic and religious undertone with little effort from government or community leaders at addressing them.

John (2014) studied the predicaments of the pastoralists and farmers and the true stories behind their conflicts and how these can be resolved. His results show the existence of one-sided reporting by the media, research articles and interested parties. Majority of those reports tend to highlight and report cases in which the pastoralist faulted farmers and tend to ignore the other side of the stories or even their losses (John, 2014). This appears to aggravate the situation and adds to the speculation and allegations of the pastoralist.

Other studies show farmers encroachment on cattle routes is the real cause (Nformi, 2014). These mystify who is wrong and how these conflicts can be addressed. Ethnic

jingoists and politicians have been benefitting in these strives and without doubt; have succeeded in creating a divide between the farmers and pastoralist, especially in communities that are less educated. Leaders at the Federal, State, and Local Governments and even at community levels become perplexed and ruminate on how these issues can be resolved.

Farmers and pastoralist in many localities and different countries make their livelihood within the same geographical, political, and socio-cultural conditions which may be characterized by resource scarcity (Braukämper, 2000) or political inequality. Farmer-pastoralist conflicts have been associated with the conflict of land resource use exacerbated by dwindling resources (Blench, 2004). Some researchers have linked this crisis to the theory of eco-violence (Okoli & Atelhe, 2014), where environmental factors and exploitation of scarce resources leads to conflict and violence. This may explain the dwindling grazing resources (land and pasture) and poor management of existing grazing reserves (Adisa, 2012) as culpable.

In addition, the population is dynamic and ever increasing compared to land that is relatively static. The population growth rate of Nigeria per year is 3.2% (National Population Commission, 2012). Therefore, more and more people will continue to compete over arable land resource. Other researchers (Okoli et al., 2014; Odoh and Chigozie, 2012; Abbass, 2012) relate the causes of conflict to the global climate change and the contending desertification and aridity that has reduced arable and grazing lands, forcing pastoralist to move southwards in search of pasture for their livestock. Climate change-induced rainfall shifting patterns/amount and desertification reduces crop lands, and farmers have to follow these patterns, leading to overlap on grazing lands. The Fulbe herders in Nigeria, for example are faced with

rapidly vanishing grass, forcing them to switch from the Bunaji cattle breed, which depends on grass, to the Sokoto Gudali, which readily browses (FAO, 2001). The pastoralists are also competing with large-scale agricultural schemes that narrow the grazing lands. The use of tractors, herbicides and fertilizers have revolutionized agriculture in the country leading to more and more grazing lands being farmed extensively (Iro, 2010). As farmlands increase to the detriment of grazing lands, animals can easily veer into farmlands and destroy crops.

Land acquisition by capitalist farmers exacerbates the upsurge of conflict as pastoralist can no longer find where to pass let to talk of where to stay (Abbass, 2012). Changing access rights as traditional communal property are being replaced by private ownership (Adisa, 2012). It is common to see that Burtalis (cattle pathways) close to cities do not exist anymore as houses and filling (petrol/gas) stations have taken over their places. Cattle now have to compete with motorist to the only path that is tarred road. There are many other predominant causes. Blockage of waterholes by farmers and fishermen, crop damage by pastoralist livestock and reprisal attacks on pastoralist by sedentary farmers when ethnic or religious disputes occur somewhere else (Umar, 2002; Abbass, 2012; Audu, 2014). Also, allocation of grazing lands as government layouts without compensating the pastoralist, breakdown of law and order and taking side by local rulers or Judges responsible for dispute resolution (Rasak, 2011; Fabusoro & Oyegbami, 2009). Others are gradual decline of social cohesion, ethnocentric and religious intolerance of leaders who are themselves sedentary farmers and conflict of cultures (Abbass, 2012; Bello, 2013).

Hence, it is important to note that these conflicts have direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of those involved. They also disrupt and threaten the sustainability of

pastoral production and agriculture in West Africa (Moritz, 2010). These conflicts reinforce circles of extreme poverty and hunger, and destroy social status, food security and affect mostly the most marginalized groups that include women and children. This affects education of children leading to obstacles in their development and mass displacement. Consequentially, this debilitates the once mutually existing farmer-pastoralist relationships. This awful situation becomes worst, especially when either the farmer or the pastoralist is categorized into a group relating to religion, tribe or region. Abbass (2012) warned that the disharmony in pastoralism and sedentarism reflect enhanced sedentarisation and increased pastoralism leading to constant conflict with the agrarian societies.

Some farmers practicing mixed farming attests that their animals have in one way or another affected other farmers, likewise sedentary pastoralists were in one way or the other affected by farmers (Nformi, 2014). This shows that the issue of farmer-pastoralist conflict is more or less shared problem. Therefore, this may not warrant isolation of farmers or pastoralists into ethnic or regional groupings for the sake of levying blames on any as the case may be.

Blench (2010) observed that judicial commissions set up to handle conflict issues do not yield any effective action. Both farmers and pastoralists are in dire need to settle these conflicts preferably by the customary institutions rather than the Courts. Even though, many of these conflicts are settled outside courts through the customary institutions, a lot of people are not aware of the existence of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The ADR is formal and centres are provided within cities and towns. The arbitrators are professionals at law and cases are solved fairly quickly

outside the courts. In Nigeria, the ADRs are established by Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Cap. A 18 of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (2004).

2.2.2 Causes of Herdsmen Farmers Conflict in Nigeria

Environmental Factors: Conflicts between herdsmen and farmers have existed since the beginning of agriculture and have increased or decreased in intensity and frequency depending on economic, environmental and other factors. Environmental security scholar Thomas Homer-Dixon has emphasized the role of resource scarcity and competition as the primary, though not the only cause of the conflict between herdsmen and farmers (Homer-Dixon, 1999; Blench, 2010). Resources scarcity is induced by many factors and is not without consequences. This type of scarcity is essentially a decline in the availability of or access to natural resources. It is usually induced by climatic and environmental factors such as climate change, acute drought, environmental degradation, fresh water depletion, desertification, erosion, extreme heat, loss of wetland.

Scarcity of land, water and foliage which stems from unfavourable weather and climatic condition which reduces the availability of these resources is what usually changes the pattern of grazing by herders and social relations with farmers. As growing pressure on natural resources caused by human population increase, growth in the population of herd, due to improved conditions of the cattle often compel the pastoralist to seek for more pastures beyond their limited range (Bello, 2013). The relationship between the pastoralist and farmers becomes competitive over access to and utility of lands and water for cultivation of the part of farmers and herding for the pastoralist. Intertwined with this the existence of a weak or absent institutional

mechanism to mediate conflict between two groups of land users before it escalates into violence in most of the affected local areas in Nigeria.

Population Explosion: Another major cause of the violence is population explosion of both humans and livestock which is based on the hypothesis of Thomas Malthus in his 1798 work on eco-scarcity and population pressure entitled ‘an essay on the principle of population’ in which he proposed that population and resources are initially in equilibrium, but while populations grow exponentially, food production increases only linearly. According to him, population will grow (exponentially) faster than food production which would grow at arithmetic progression and population growth will reduce the availability of natural resources because population grow faster than food supply, and poor people will impoverish the soil and natural resources by overuse and this will induce competition and conflict over means of existence.

Expansive Use of Land for Non-agricultural Purposes: The expansive use of land and water for non-agricultural uses also often reduce the resource base available to pastoralist and farmers. In response to this, it is not uncommon to see herdsmen grazing along the street, and sedentary farmers cultivating on grazing route which often stimulate conflict from crop damages by herds, destruction of farm properties (Bello, 2013) and escalation into violence (Moritz,2010).

Unfavourable Ecological Changes: Scarcity of water, land and harsh weather in the North Eastern and Western part of Nigeria is a major factor that necessitates the migration of pastoralist to the middle-belt where the ecology is more favourable to their herding business because of a more favourable weather and access to water

which is necessitated by existence of river Niger and Benue. Pastoral migration from one geographical location to another in search of a more favourable climate and resources is often referred to as Transhumance which according to Centre for Democracy and Development (2015) is a system of animal production characterized by seasonal and cyclical migration between complementary ecological areas as a means of adapting to unfavourable conditions.

Unregulated Transhumance: Despite the many advantages of Transhumance, this system of animal production usually brings the herders and their retinue of cattle herds into contact and competition over land, water and grazing route which usually end up in non- violent and violent conflict with dwellers (Shettima & Tsar, 2008) who are predominantly sedentary farmers and fishermen and are always bent on asserting their exclusive right to land tenure and land inheritance (Okoli & Atelhe, 2014). Furthermore, the conflict is now being intensified with the transformation of the old pattern of transhumance from being the temporary abode of herders in a particular region for a limited and defined period of time to staying permanently for a long period of time.

Land Ownership System: The mysticism and inclination to land ownership in Nigeria is also a major cause of the conflict. In Nigeria, the indigene settler syndrome is always a factor necessitating conflict over land use especially when there exists a deliberate deprivation or perceived marginalization of one group in the allocation and utility of land and access to water. As a result of transhumance, pastoralist from North Eastern and Western Nigeria who migrate to the middle-belt in search of forage and water inevitably become host and settler and are often seen as strangers, settlers or

foreigner despite being Nigerians. The attendant effects of this is that in case of any further deprivation of resources by the indigenes, the pastoralist often transfer aggression on the indigene for their previous losses and flee while the indigene respond by employing every means of evacuating ‘these troublesome stranger’ from their land (Azeez, et al., 2015).

Ethno-Religious Intolerance: Another major reason for the conflicts between farmers and pastoralist is the ethno-religious dynamics of the social relations between these groups of resources users. The ethnic dimension comes to play in the conflict between two broad ethnic groups, the pastoralists who are majorly of the Fulani extraction with an entirely different set of practices and way of life of the sedentary farmers who are made up of a variety of ethnic groups (Shetimma & Tar, 2008). Language barrier and religious intolerance are also a major colouration to the conflict. The indigenes of these North Central state are predominantly Christians while the settlers are of the Islamic religion. Hence, this often leads to escalation of conflict between pastoralist and farmers because of the ethno-religious alignment of the herdsmen and farmers.

Boko Haram Attack and Coerced Migration of Herdsmen: Incessant attacks and the conquest of some of the North Eastern and Western states by the Boko-Haram sects since the evolution of their attacks on villages and selected location has forced down pastoralist some of who have lost valuable properties, relatives and herds to migrate downwards to the more peaceful and safer North- central for the safety of their herds and in order to prevent cattle ranching which is now a common practice in the Northern Nigeria. This uneasy relocation usually stirs up aggression, hostile

behaviour and displacement of aggression on the host communities for the occurrence of further loss of herds by the pastoralist or in retaliation to any perceived deprivation or denial of access to land, forage and water.

Cost Minimization: The calculated attempt of the pastoralist to minimize cost by bringing their herds downward to the south where there are ready access to pasture and market has over the years generated serious disturbance for the host communities. The causes of this grievance range from environmental and water pollution by herds that pollute and contaminate streams and rivers which some local farming communities in the south depend on and refusal to regulate this unwanted defecation in residential areas.

2.2.3 Consequences of Herdsmen Farmers Conflict

Loss of life and Human Insecurity: One of the major consequences of the perennial conflict, attacks and counter-attacks between herdsmen and farmers in Northern Nigeria is massive death toll of many innocent lives and actors involved in the conflict. Olayoku (2012) noted that between the year 2006 and 2014, Nigerian Watch database recorded 615 violent deaths related to cattle in the year 2006, 22 deaths were recorded after the herdsmen farmers conflict in 2006, 54 in 2007, 31 in 2008, 83 in 2009, 39 fatalities in 2010 and a massive increase in death toll in 2011 which puts the figure at 116, 128 deaths in 2012, 115 deaths in 2013 and a total of 27 deaths was recorded in 2014. Similarly, in the year 2013, Sunday Trust recorded a total of 300 deaths between January 1 and May 20 in the North Central states of Taraba, Nasarawa, Plateau, Nasarawa, Kogi and Benue states respectively.

The Institute of Economics and Peace (2015) which rated the Fulani militant as the fourth most deadly terrorist group in the world as at 2014 Global Terrorism Index report records the dramatic increase in the attacks by Fulani Militants from 2010 to 2013 with 80 deaths recorded to a skyrocketing increase in the death toll to 1,229 in 2014 alone. Unlike deaths from Boko Haram which are mainly in the North, majority of the deaths accruable from herdsman farmers conflict occurred majorly in the North Central and some of the North Western, Eastern and some Southern states in Nigeria.

On the 25th of April, 2016, seven villages in Ukpabi-Nimbo town a border town in Uzo Uwani in Enugu State were attacked by over 500 heavily armed Fulani herdsman who killed over 48 villagers and left many injured (Ikenwa & Adeyemi, 2016). Also, between February 8 and July 17, 604 farmers and locals were killed in Agatu, Guma, Logo and Tarkaa local government area of Benue state. Recently, 11 villagers were killed and two villages bunt down because of what (Binniyat, 2016) calls vengeance mission of the herdsman on Godogodo chiefdom in Jema'a local government area in Southern part of Kaduna state. Also, in Plateau state, a first class traditional ruler, Sir Lazarus Agai, his driver and police men were killed on the way from his farm on 17th of October, 2016 (Owuamanam, 2016).

Loss of Cattles and Farm Crops: Another severe consequence of this conflict is loss of cattle to conflict and bandits as many herds are lost during the conflict to angry farmers and bandits who take advantage of the conflicts to steal cattle from the pastoralists. On the side of farmers, it is not uncommon to read about the destruction of crops on the farms and harvested products by the angry mobs of pastoralist. The

negative effect of this is huge loss on both sides for these two actors as a result of loss of income and capital.

Destruction of Properties: Another effect of this conflict is destruction of farm properties and farm irrigation equipment, farming tools, houses and cars by angry herders who usually carry out organised violence as retaliatory act on the farming communities.

Threat to National Unity: The persistent attack by the herdsmen has called the attention of Nigerians to the threat it poses to Nigerian unity. Nigerian being a very ethnic conscious country that is polarised along ethno-religious lines is a very fragile and delicate union of culturally diverse ethnic groups. There is need to quickly address the forces that spreads division while at the same time promoting the forces of unity. In line with this conception, the Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara on the 26th of April, 2016 clamour for “deliberate and proactive actions to end the incessant farmers and herdsmen clashes spreading across the country, noting that if not properly checked could divide Nigeria (Ovuakporie & Agbakwuru, 2016).

Displacement: Another lethal effect of this conflict is the displacement of people from their homes and community for safety reasons. This has become the persistent effect of the clash between herdsmen and farmers in North Central Nigeria. Djadi (2016) reported that about 20,000 people are thought to have fled the wave of attacks which some locals say is the worst massacre by mainly Muslim Fulani herdsmen since 2010 when 400-500 died near Jos, in Plateau state, North Central Nigeria.

2.2.4 Conflict Management Strategies

Most of the time conflict management has been used interchangeably with conflict resolution. Essuman-Johnson (2009) contents that conflict resolution refers to the elimination of the causes of the underlying conflict, generally with the agreement of the parties. On the other hand, conflict management refers to the elimination, neutralization or control of the means of pursuing either the conflict or the crisis. He adds that conflict resolution is a tall order. It is rarely accomplished by direct action and is more frequently achieved only over long periods although the proximate aspects of conflict can sometimes be eliminated by agreement among the parties.

Although the emphasis on conflict management or resolution seems to be a vein discussion, literatures have attempted to indicate through practice measures that have been taken to solve or manage the various conflicts manifested in Africa. Globally, conflicts have been occurring and will continue occurring. It is perhaps a permanent feature in human social relations. Conflict in resource use is not uncommon and perhaps not unnatural between and within living beings, including people (Alfonso & Erik, 2001).

Moore (2005) noted that conflict is not bad: it is rather necessary in order for societies to evolve and develop over time. Social conflict theory sees social life as a competition, and focuses on the distribution of resources, power, and inequality. A struggle for dominance among competing social groups (classes, gender, races, religions). When conflict theorists look at society, they see the social domination of subordinate groups through the power, authority, and coercion of dominant groups. In the conflict view, the most powerful members of dominant groups create the rules for

success and opportunity in society, often denying subordinate groups such success and opportunities; this ensures that the powerful continue to monopolize power, privilege, and authority.

The conflict between the owners of the means of production and workers was at the heart of Marx's thinking. In an industrial, wealthy, society, how can so many people be poor? At the heart of Marx's thinking was social conflict, which is the struggle between groups in society over scarce resources. Marx primary concern, however, was class conflict, which arises from the way society produces material goods. Marx believed the owners of these industries were the capitalists, those people who owned and operated businesses in pursuit of profits. The system of capitalism turns most people in any society into proletariats, those people who sell their labour for wages. To Marx, such a system will inevitably lead to class conflict between the capitalist and proletariats. Conflict theory sees social change as rapid, continuous, and inevitable as groups seek to replace each other in the social hierarchy (Stuart, 2003).

Indeed, Brown (1983), quoted in Driscoll (1994) opined that “conflict management can require intervention to reduce conflict if there is too much of it, or intervention to promote conflict if there is too little.” But when conflicts degenerate to violent and destructive clashes, they become unhealthy and counterproductive. According to Aron (2002) Conflicts in general affect the capacity and credibility of states to allocate and regulate towards growth, education and improved living standard.” There is a sense in which the prevalence of conflict creates a vicious circle because of conflict, government resources are diverted from development activities and invested in livelihood promoting activities.

There are several mechanisms proposed for solving and or managing conflicts. These range from third party intervention; use of standing committees or ad-hoc groups within the country or region; use of dignified leaders within the region who are perceived wise and adept of understanding, use of head of states within the same region who are mentors (Koffi, 2010). In emphasizing on the importance of African solutions from within Africa, Kasomo (2010) reveals that religion can be used to arrest or mitigate conflicts in Africa. In other words, Africa is liable for the solvency of her problems, including conflicts.

Understanding farmers and pastoralists relations is a key to conflict management and resolution. This will improve understanding of the proximate and underlying causes of conflict, the behavioral patterns that are most conducive to provoking or avoiding conflict and the main mechanisms by which conflict between the groups are resolved or managed (Davis, 2015). The method used in resolving conflict depends on the nature and the magnitude of the conflict. In all cases where conflict has been occasioned by crop destruction and where the offending pastoralist admit guilt; interpersonal agreement may be reached, depending on the extent of the damage, compensation (varying in amount) is often demanded and paid where minimal crops have been destroyed. This is a situation where pastoralists and crop farmers have co-habited for a long time. In such cases, the herdsmen speak the local language very fluently, thereby enhancing social integration and neighborhood (Kamla-Raj, 2008). There are other instances where pastoralist and farmer's interpersonal relationship is not very cordial; conflict arises if such situation is not usually resolved by personal

intervention. The village head and the head of pastoralists are usually involved in settling the dispute (Kolawole, 1993).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The study is anchored on Frustration and Aggression theory, Eco-Violence Theory, the Relative Deprivation Theory and Democratic Peace building Theory to explain the security management strategy and farmers-herdsmen conflict in Benue State, Nigeria. However, the most relevant theory on which this research intends to be underpinned is the Democratic Peace Building Theory by Michael Doyle (1983).

2.3.1 Frustration and Aggression Theory

The origin of Frustration and Aggression theory can be linked to the publication of Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer and Sears (1939) and Zillmann (1979) in which they presented what is now popularly called the frustration-aggression hypothesis (F-A) Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer and Sears (1939). According to them, the central thesis of Frustration and aggression theory is that aggression is always a function of frustration and the occurrences of aggressive behavior always presuppose the existence of frustration. They further defined aggression as any behavior which is intended to injure, cause harm, pain to the individual to whom it is directed. According to Zillmann (1979), the major tenets of the theory are;

- a) frustration instigates behavior that may or may not be hostile or aggressive;
- b) And any hostile or aggressive behavior that occurs is caused by frustration.

The theoretical significance of this theory is its ability to concisely explain the reasons for violent conflict between the farmers and herdsmen. Environmental conflict from the perspective of this theory is a product of the frustration of herdsmen as a result of severe ecological changes and Boko Haram incessant attacks in their home state with

the resultant effects such as the death of many cattle which are their most treasured possession, cattle rustling and migration to the south. All of which makes the herdsmen put on aggressive behavior which is a derivative of the previous frustration they have encountered as a result of grazing in the face of adverse weather condition, scarcity of environmental resources and security threats from Boko Haram attacks. Therefore, the destruction of farm crops, properties, houses and massive death toll that perpetually fill up the front-page of the national dailies are the product of aggression that evolves from frustration and sense of deep loss on the side of the herdsmen.

Frustration Aggression Theory will be adopted as part of my workable theories because it explains the reason for conflict. When individual expectation is not met, it can easily be frustrated and once he is frustrated he will exhibit hostile behavior which will lead to aggression hence result to conflict which is the situation between farmers and herders in Benue State.

2.3.2 The Eco-Violence Theory

Homer-Dixon (1999) developed the theory of eco-violence which seeks to explicate the relationship between environmental factors and violent conflicts. Its basic assumptions are (a) decrease in the quality and quantity of renewable resources, population growth, (b) resource access acting singly or in various combinations to increase the scarcity, for certain population groups, of cropland, water, forests, and fish, thereby reducing economic productivity, both for the local groups experiencing the scarcity and for the larger regional and national economies, and (c) the affected people may migrate or be expelled to new lands, thereby triggering ethnic conflicts

when they move to new areas, while decreases in wealth cause deprivation conflicts (Homer-Dixon, 1999).

Competition over scarce ecological resources has been aggravated in contemporary times owing to the impacts of climate change, which has exacerbated ecological scarcity across the world (Blench, 2004; Onuoha, 2007), thereby engendering violent conflicts. Therefore, the theory offers insights into the nature and dynamics of the arable land, resource conflict and underdevelopment indications in Nigeria. The pressure over arable land and the attendant resource conflicts get worse amidst ever shrinking resources, livelihood crisis, and imminent policy deficiencies on grazing and pastoral governance by Nigerian leaders. Increasing population growth rate has continued to exert great pressure on available land resources with varying environmental and socio-economic implications (Dietz, Ruben and Verhagen, 2001; Tarhule and Lamb, 2003; Fiki and Lee, 2004).

Farmer-herdsmen conflict has remained the most preponderant resource-use conflict in Nigeria (Ajuwon, 2004; Fasona & Omojola, 2005). The necessity to provide food of crop and animal origin, as well as raw materials for industry and export in order to meet ever growing demands, has exerted more pressure on land (Nyong and Fiki, 2005). The competition between these two agricultural land user-groups, however, has often times turned into serious overt and covert manifestation of hostilities and social friction in many parts of Nigeria. The conflicts have demonstrated high potential to exacerbate the insecurity and food crisis particularly in rural communities where most of the conflicts are localized, with reverberating consequences nationwide.

According to de Haan (2002), 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. Ingawa, Ega, and Erhabor (1999) 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 has not been adhered to.

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.

Resource conflict amongst farmers and herders has increased in recent time in the middle belt and southern zones of Nigeria. Policy gaps and underdevelopment of grazing lands have been blamed for this worsening arable land resource conflict. Land ownership and utilization have directly and indirectly defined the dimensions of most agricultural land conflicts, which are becoming fiercer and increasingly widespread in Nigeria, largely due to increasing production activities for the increasing human population (Gefu & Kolawole, 2005; Fasona & Omojola, 2005).

Mutual fear of deep-rooted hostility exists among the Fulani herdsmen and host farmers. The age-old problem escalated in the last decade and has assumed a violent dimension whereby communities are being internally displaced, lives and property are being lost while hunger and insecurity have become the order of the day. The conflicts occur when Fulani herders move into non-Fulani homelands with their cattle. This usually leads to the destruction of farm crops. Thus, the herders provoke their victims to acts of communal and individual resistance (preventing entry into farms, killing or stealing cattle, or poisoning fields). In response, the herders wage deadly attacks on host communities.

The theoretical significance of this theory is its ability to concisely explain the reasons for violent conflict between the farmers and herdsmen. Environmental conflict from the perspective of this theory is a product of the frustration of herdsmen as a result of severe ecological changes and Boko Haram incessant attacks in their home state with the resultant effects such as the death of many cattle which are their most treasured possession, cattle rustling and migration to the south. All of which makes the herdsmen put on aggressive behavior which is a derivative of the previous frustration they have encountered as a result of grazing in the face of adverse weather condition,

scarcity of environmental resources and security threats from Boko Haram attacks. Therefore, the destruction of farm crops, properties, houses and massive death toll that perpetually fill up the front-page of the national dailies are the product of aggression that evolves from frustration and sense of deep loss on the side of the herdsmen.

The research adopted the theory of eco-violence as one of its analytical framework, because the theory of eco-violence is an emerging theoretical construct seeking to explicate the relationship between environmental factors and violent conflicts (Onuoha, 2007). Developed by Homer-Dixon (1999), the theory holds thus: Decreased in the quality and quantity of renewable resources, population growth, and resource access act singly or in various combinations to increase the scarcity, for certain population groups, of cropland, water, forests, and fish. This can reduce economic productivity, both for the local groups experiencing the scarcity and for the larger regional and national economies. The affected people may migrate or be expelled to new lands. Migrating groups often trigger ethnic conflicts when they move to new areas, while decreases in wealth can cause deprivation conflicts (Homer-Dixon, 1999).

Implicit in the eco-violence theory is the assumption 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). In effect, ecological scarcity raises the competitive stakes and premium that the various societal groups may place on available ecological resources. This condition tends to precipitate violent conflicts.

Applied to the purpose of the present discourse, the theory of eco-violence offers insights into the nature and dynamics of the herdsmen/farmers conflicts in Nigeria. In this regard, it is to be observed that the conflicts have been driven by the desperation of the affected groups to protect and advance their livelihood interests in the context of an ever shrinking ecological space, characterized by resource-scarcity, livelihood crisis, population explosion, and resource competition. In the case of North Central State, which is by design the focus of this paper, the situation has been accentuated by the climate change-induced migration of pastoralists from the far North to the North-Central region of Nigeria in search of grazing fields (Blench 2010). This trend has been succinctly captured thus:

As the population is increasing, definitely there will be as well increase in demand for land, water, forest products and grazing land within the territories inhabited by Fulanis and farmers; these groups are forced to find new ways to cope with different types of conflict at once because of competition over marginal resources (Adogi, 2013). The outcome of this scenario has been the prevailing internecine herder/farmer conflict, which has so far tended to have defied all remedies. An extrapolation of the foregoing theoretical position has been nicely articulated in the analytical notion of 'eco-survivalism (Okoli, 2013). The crux of the theory of eco-violence is that the desperate quest for survival by groups in a competitive and resource-scarce ecological sphere (ecosurvivalism) is likely to precipitate violent conflict.

2.3.3 Relative Deprivation Theory

To further investigate the security challenges and economy of the Nigerian state, the Relative Deprivation Theory will also be adopted in this study. This theory was propounded by Dollard et al (1939), in an effort to link socio-political and economic

inequalities in the society to rebellions and insurrections. As individual and group-based theory of aggression, the relative deprivation theory argues that when expectation outstrips achievement regardless of the absolute levels of economic consumption or the provision of political rights, frustration is generated. Thus, the collective frustration turns to anger and violence (Dollard, 1939, Davies, 1962, & Feierabend, 1966).

By application, this theory assists us to trace the historical antecedence of conflicts, agitations and frequent rise of individuals and groups against the Nigerian government. From the standpoint of the assumptions of Relative Deprivation Theory, we argue that the abysmal failure of the Nigerian government to addressing critical challenges to development in many parts of the country may be responsible for the internal insurrection by armed militia groups against the state. Further, we equally argue that security challenges or threats in some parts of Nigeria particularly the northern region, are clear indications that government seems to have failed in her constitutional role of protecting lives and properties of the Nigerian people. This is clearly because, available evidence demonstrates that there is increasing rate of poverty among Nigerians. Also, unemployment looms large, per capita income is low and high rate of inflation has not been addressed. Similarly, Nigerians are still facing challenges of poor health status, poor state of infrastructures, high rate of illiteracy, low technological development, among others (Anosike, 2010).

The implication of Relative Deprivation Theory on security challenges and economy of the Nigerian state is that democracy is most likely to be undermined, thereby paving way for military incursion in the country. Also, the continuous internal insurrection by armed youths across the country could distort any meaningful efforts

by the government to achieve radical economic development in Nigeria. Therefore, the improvement of the security apparatus of the Nigerian state as well as commitment of the government to address the core causes of insecurity, are likely panacea to the survival of democracy and achievement of desired economic growth. As Ebegbulam (2007) aptly observes, democracy only thrives where there is security and stability.

2.3.4 Democratic Peace Building Theory

The democratic peace theory assumes that liberal states do not fight wars against other liberal states. This theory was first enunciated in a keynote article by Michael Doyle in *Journal of Philosophy and Public Affairs* (Doyle, 1983). Thus, Doyle argued that there was a difference in liberal practice towards liberal societies and liberal practice towards non-liberal societies.

From security point of view, the recommendations of democratic peace theory are clear. According to this theory, security largely depends on encouraging liberal institutions to discharge their responsibilities creditably; and a security policy must have as its long-term the spread of liberalism (Doyle, (1998). Therefore, the route to peace is to encourage democratic system, the universal respect for human rights and the development of civil society. But such conclusion depends largely on untroubled and robust correlation between the democratic nature of a state and peaceful inclination.

By application of this theory to security challenges and economy of the Nigerian state, we argue that for Nigeria to address her perennial security challenges, the need to adopt and faithfully implement strategic security policies and viable socio economic programs capable of strengthening the growth of democracy in Nigeria are the first

step to be adopted by government. Thus, we further argue that the increasing spate of security threats in Nigeria which if unchecked could further distort the country's economy is clearly symptomatic of the abysmal failure of the institutions constitutionally charged with the responsibility of protecting the lives and properties of Nigerian citizens (Dinneya, 2006).

All the other theories (Frustration and Aggression theory, Eco-Violence Theory and the Relative Deprivation Theory) were adopted for the purpose of building the theoretical framework of this research. This is why they were focused on highlighting the secondary aspect of the research, which is the farmers-herders conflict. As a result, all the theories proffered causes of the conflict and the approach to which the conflict should be faced.

The Democratic Peace Building theory by Michael Doyle (1983), is the main theory to be adopted in this research. This research work will focus on security management strategies rather than farmers-herders conflict and as such the theory deals with management strategies and adoption i.e. that the Nigerian government should faithfully adopt and implement viable strategies towards boosting security and eliminating all security threats, as well as all possible growth of insecurity.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study will employ a descriptive survey research design where by data will be collected at a single point in time from a sample selected to represent a large population (Babbie, 2007). The research design is adopted due to limited resource and time available for data collection while being adequate for descriptive study as well as for determination of relationship between the study variables. This study design is suitable because it is fast and it can accommodate a large number of study units at a low cost. The internal validity of a cross-sectional survey design is critically determined by the researcher's understanding and inclusion of relevant variables.

Structured interviews and questionnaire will be used by the researcher to gather information from respondents. The respondents that will be interview will include chiefs, farmers, Fulani herdsmen, cattle owners and leaders of youth groups. These people will be selected for the study because of their involvement in the conflicts. Participant observation will also form part of the research process. The research will take the form of face to face interaction with respondents in the study area. This would be to enable the researcher to ascertain the validity of claims made by respondents and further deepen the researchers understanding of the issues under study. The appropriate place that field visit/survey and interactive tools would be utilized, would be the seven-most heated areas by the conflict in Benue state which are; Guma, Logo and Okpokwu.

3.2 Population, Sample and Sampling Techniques

The target population of this study will involve 728,000 farmers in Logo (228,900), Guma (262,100) and Okpokwu (237,000) local government are of Benue State Nigeria. The population will be stratified into two groups, a group of farmers and artisans.

Simple random sampling is a process of selecting a sample at random from the sampling frame. Simple random sampling maintains the original sampling frame but the number of elements available to be drawn decreases as each element of the sample is removed. Simple random sampling technique will be used to select respondents among members of the badly affected communities in order to produce more representative and accurate sample.

Stratified sampling is a technique of sampling whereby the total population is split into different groups. Elements with similar characteristics are placed into the same categories and then representatives from each group by either simple random sampling or systematic sampling. Stratified random sampling technique will be used to select respondents among members of the security personnel attached to the crisis area.

A sample was obtained using the formula; Mugenda & Mugenda (2003) as it provides a simplified formula to calculate sample sizes.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = required sample size

e=Proportion of sampling error. In this situation 0.05%

The sample size of the study calculated to 180 respondents that will be sampled.

$$728,000/1+728,000(0.05)^2 = 399$$

A total of 399 respondents will be selected to participate in the study. The distribution of respondents is given in a table as follows:

Table 3.1: Population and Sample Selection

Local Government	Population	Sample Size
Logo	228,900	125
Guma	262,100	144
Okpokwu	237,000	130
Total	728,00	399

Source: Researchers Analysis, (2017)

3.3 Method of Data Collection

Both primary and secondary data will be collected and use in the study. Primary data is the type of information that will be obtained directly from first-hand sources by means of surveys and observation. It is data that has not been previously published and was derived from a new or original research study and collected at the source while secondary data are those which were previously been collected that are utilized by a person other than the one who collected the data.

Primary data are those which are collected afresh and for the first time, and thus happen to be original in character (Kothari, 2004). Primary data will be obtained through questionnaire administration to individual investors in the real estate market. The primary sources of data would emanate from interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions and observations. The primary data would provide the detailed data which were actual situations or responses arising out of the survey and will constitute

the main data that will be used for answering the research questions and validation of hypotheses formulated in chapter one.

Secondary data are those that have been already collected by someone else and which have already passed through statistical process. The secondary data would be obtained from review of text books, reports, web-sites, journals, articles and from official documents where relevant information is found. Secondary data has been very important for the study because of the fact that they had complimented to the primary data collected through questionnaire.

These will be collected from 399 respondents using interviews. Data to be collected through interview schedule includes, respondent's demographic information, conflict management strategies mechanism available in the study area, land ownership and use, the way farmers and pastoralist's concerns such as crop destruction, grazing land encroachment and water for animals and for irrigation are handled, effects of conflict to farmers and pastoralists, farmers and pastoralist assessment about the people responsible for fulfilling their concerns such as village leaders, district leaders and elders also perception of farmers and pastoralist towards each other.

The instrument that shall be used in data collection in this research is structured questionnaire and oral interview, which shall be administered in the field on heads of households of farmers and herdsmen. The administered questionnaire shall be retrieved and used for analysis of the study. The most vital data collection method for analysis and providing answers to the research questions and achieving the objectives of the study include a survey questionnaire with very straight forward close-ended questions. The survey questionnaire will comprise of a set of 10 questions which will

be answered by farmers and herdsmen that were selected by the various sampling methods and invited to participate in the survey.

3.3.1 Test of Validity and Reliability

The key indicators of the quality of data collection instrument are the validity and reliability of the measures. Instrument validation was achieved in several ways. A pre-test was done by administering the instrument to ten conveniently selected farmers and herdsmen to fill without disclosing to them that this was the final research. The ten farmers and herdsmen were requested to evaluate the statement items for relevance, meaning and clarity. On the basis of their response, the instrument was adjusted appropriately before embarking on data collection.

Reliability of the instrument refers to the extent to which results are consistent over time. An accurate representation of the total population under study is referred to as reliability. If the results of a study can be reproduced under a similar methodology, then the research instrument is considered to be reliable. A three-step measure was used to achieve reliability. First, those items that have been tested for reliability by other researchers were adopted, with slight modification to suit the context. Second, the researcher collected data from farmers and herdsmen. In most cases, the questionnaires were filled as the researcher waited, thus providing an opportunity to offer clarification where and when necessary.

Apart from examining the data collected on distribution and dispersion, the data was also subjected to validity tests to check whether the instrument tested what it should have tested. Content validity involved the examination of content to determine

whether it covered a representative sample of the behavioural domains to be measured. Further, the items or factors within variables were compared to other research factors, covering parameters in question, to ensure that there was consistency. Validation was also done by dividing the instrument into several sections. Each section was carefully checked to ensure that it conveyed the necessary message and attracted the relevant feedback, as per the tested specific themes of the research objectives and hypotheses. Content validity was also ensured through the research supervisors who assured the representativeness of the hypotheses by the questionnaire items. The comments and suggestions of these experts and the supervisors were used to revise the instrument such that the objectives of the research will be covered.

The research instrument will be tested for validity by submitting two separate copies of the questionnaire to two Professors and researchers. These researchers will be sourced from the Institute of Corporate Governance Studies of Nasarawa State University Keffi. These comprised of individuals with backgrounds and expertise in security studies and strategic management. These experts vetted the set of questions to establish further validity and credibility assurance, by advising and commenting on the questionnaire design to ensure overall relevance and congruence with case context. This approach raised further the reliability of the instrument and data collected.

Third, the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient will be used to measure the internal consistency of the constructs. This is a scale measurement tool, which is commonly used in social sciences to measure the internal consistency of items or factors within

and among variables of study. Nunnally (1967) argues that an alpha coefficient of .70 or above is an acceptable measure, but the lower threshold can be accepted. Three types of tests of reliability involving quantitative research have been identified and include: the degree to which a measurement, given repeatedly, remains the same; the stability of a measurement over time, and the similarity of measurements within a given time period. Combining both reliability and validity tests ensured that the measurement instruments achieved accuracy and precision (Coopers & Schindler, 2006). The Cronbach's Alpha for the major variables in the conceptual framework were all good registering a score of 0.741 to 0.875

3.4 Techniques for Data Analysis

The data collected from the respondents would be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics will involve the use of means and standard deviation to answer the research questions, while t-test statistic would be used to test the null hypotheses. The researcher shall employ the weights attached to the four-point scale to compute the mean scores for the items of the questionnaire. The decision rule for clusters A-C would be based on the mid-point of the scale which is 2.50. Therefore, a criterion means of 2.50 and above shall reflect accepted, as indicators of Agree, while mean scores below the criterion mean would serve as indicators of Disagree.

3.5 Justification of Instrument Used

The justification for descriptive statistics analysis is intended to reduce data, allow for easier interpretation. Analysis of the data would be facilitated if they were organized in some fashion such as mean and standard deviation. Peck (2012) also acknowledged

the fact that the descriptive statistical analysis is an efficient method been used to organize and summarize data into charts and tables for ease of interpretation and view, we will use these methods. Thus, during the course of this work, data collected will be displayed in frequency tables which are the most frequently used of the techniques of descriptive analysis.

Questionnaire will be chosen because of the nature and requirement of the research topic. Several studies as reviewed in the literature used primary data inform of the questionnaire to examine the influence of security management strategies in resolving conflicts between farmers and herdsmen in Nigeria.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Presentation of Data

This chapter presents the data which have been collected and analyzed using frequency tables and descriptive statistic for its interpretation and discussion in relation to the research questions and objectives of the study. Also the chapter describes the demographic and social economic characteristics of the respondents in terms of gender, age, level of education and years in settlement area. That information helps the researcher to know the reliability of the respondent for the study. The data is presented in the appendix section.

4.2 Data Analysis and Results

4.2.1 Respondents Demographic Information and Characteristics

In examining the effectiveness and sustainability of management strategies for conflict between farmers and herdsmen over land use, discussion about respondents' demographic information and characteristics become imperative since the former influences individual behaviour and therefore individual decision making. In this study, demographic information includes respondents' sex, age, marital status and education.

Table 1: Respondents Demographic Information (n=120)

Farmers		Herdsmen	Overall
(n=60)		(n=60)	(n=120)
	%	%	%
Respondent sex			
Male	78	82	80
Female	22	18	20
Total	100	100	100
Respondent age			
18-35 years	40	27	33
36-55 years	28	41	35
56-75 years	32	32	32
Total	100	100	100
Marital status			
Single	11	5	5
Married	62	77	72
Widowed	12	12	12
Separated	15	6	11
Total	100	100	100
Respondent education			
None	27	47	37
Primary	63	48	56
Secondary	10	5	8
Total	100	100	100

For both farmers and herdsmen, results in Table 1 show higher proportion of male respondents than female respondents. Results further shows that 80% of the respondents involved in the study were male and 20% were female. Farmer's households consist of 40% young people aged between 18 to 35 years while herdsmen have 27% young people of the similar age. At the same time result shows that farmer's households and herdsmen households have got the same (32%) old people aged 56 – 75. This result indicates that both farmers and herdsmen have got enough elders who

are able to help in reaching a sustainable resolution between farmers and herdsmen's conflict.

Married families are more responsible as compared to single families and this state of affair has an influence in decision making. Results in Table 1 show that 77% of the herdsmen's households are married while for farmer's households 62% are married. Farmers and herdsmen have got the same number of widowed families that is 12% and for separated families farmers have got 15% while for herdsmen is 6%. Herdsmen have 5% single families while farmers have got 11%. The result reflects herdsmen's tradition which does not allow young men who are not married to separate from their parents for fear of reducing family manpower to take care of animals.

In assessing the effect of farmer-herder conflict between farmers and herdsmen over land use in Benue state, the issues regarding respondent education cannot be ignored. Studies on the importance of education have revealed that education motivates self-assurance and provide things we need to partake in today's world. It makes us more independent and aware of what is going on in the world today, along with the awareness of opportunities and rights.

Results in Table 1 show a higher proportion of farmer's households with more education than herdsmen's households. Results show that 47% of the herdsmen households and 27% of farmer's households have no formal education. On other hand, while 63% and 10% of the farmer households have primary and secondary education respectively, for herder's households it is about 48% have primary education and 5% have secondary education. In this study, on overall, there is significant variation of educational levels between farmer's households and herdsmen households. Results

show that there is difference in education between these two communities which can cause differences in their thinking on how to solve conflict between them.

4.2.2 Conflict Management Strategies Available in the Study Area

This section focuses on conflict management strategies available in the study area by looking into different ways and efforts used to address the conflict and obtaining resolutions. Literature indicates that conflict is a normal part of any healthy relationship and they add that learning how to deal with conflict rather than avoiding it is crucial. When conflict is mismanaged, it can cause great harm to a relationship, but when handled in a respectful, positive way, can provide an opportunity to strengthen the bond between two people.

Different ways were used by leaders and other organization in trying to solve the conflict between farmers and herdsmen in the state. The strategy which was employed especially by district leaders in solving the conflict was use of police force. The police were sent in the conflict area when the conflict was at its peak. At this time five farmers had been killed, ten houses had been burnt and more than 15 heads of cattle had been killed, 20 herdsmen and 15 farmers were arrested on being suspected to have taken part in the fighting. Arresting these few individuals who were thought of having been involved in fighting was achieved by involving people whose houses had been burnt, their relatives killed and those individuals whose cattle had been killed.

Police set four roadblocks and each roadblock was guarded by two armed police men and two members of the village council, who were responsible to make sure that no one was allowed to leave or enter the village. When it was necessary for anyone to enter or leave the village she/he was required to fill in a logbook and explain where

she/he was going, for how long was she/he going to stay and the purpose of the visit in or outside the village. The operation lasted for seven days and after seven days all activities in the village resumed to normal. Police left the village assuming the conflict was over. The fighting between farmers and herdsmen kept occurring and every time when the fight occurred, the police were brought in. Accordingly, it was realized that the use of police approach was not a reliable solution to the existing conflict.

The second strategy was use of public communication campaign. Public communication campaigns encompass strategies for producing effects on the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour of large populations across a variety of domains, including political, social, environmental, and health outcomes. Public communication campaigns can be broadly defined as purposive attempts to inform, persuade, or motivate behaviour changes in a relatively well-defined and large audience, generally for non-commercial benefits to the individuals and/or society at large, typically within a given time period, by means of organized communication activities involving mass and online/interactive media, and often complemented by interpersonal support.

This strategy was established the village Division police officer (DPO) and it involved district leaders such as, Chairperson, Councillors, Ward and village leaders. These campaigns aimed at meeting with conflicting group and to finding the source of the conflict. The campaigns were conducted by leaders to explain on the importance of conflicting parties in improving peace and tranquillity of the society. Before starting campaigns, all village, ward and district leaders formulated guidelines which were required to be followed by all leaders during meeting in the village. They formed five teams which were divided to go through three sub villages for each team. The leader

of sub village was responsible to make sure that every member of the sub village got the information one day before the team conducted the meeting in a particular sub village.

The sub village leader was responsible to make sure time and place for meeting was well known to all members of the sub village. It was agreed that all teams must have visited and conducted meetings for all sub villages within one month. After completing meeting with people in sub villages, all five teams met and every team leader was required to produce a report on how the campaign was conducted in different sub villages, the report was discussed by all leaders from five teams. It was followed by meeting with the whole village. During the meeting with the whole village another strategy was established. This was establishment of a committee. The committee was established in order to make sure that strategies which were suggested during meeting in sub villages get close implementation with specific team. It was suggested that committee should involve 30 elders, 15 from farmers and 15 from herdsmen' communities.

Every community was given an opportunity to choose among them 15 elders who were announced during the village meeting to join the committee. The village meeting gave the mandate to the committee to select its leadership and implement all the strategies suggested to end conflict in different meetings in sub village and village meeting. The committee established by-laws which restricted herdsmen to trespass. It was agreed that when animals caught trespassing, the owner is required to pay five of the particular animals caught trespassing. It was agreed that farmers also are restricted to cultivate near water sources and stock route. No complaints are expected to crops

destroyed by animals in restricted areas. This is a strategy to which to some extents managed to calm the conflict up to now.

The study shows that no good result can be obtained by using power in solving conflict between farmers and herdsmen. The conflict kept recurring despite extra power used especially by police force. The study further showed that, sustainable resolution is obtained by creating awareness to community members with the aid of the population the importance of peace keeping in their society. The awareness should involve people and especially the conflicting groups to find out for their own what are the cause and what are the strategies suitable to end conflict.

Table 2: Farmers Main Concern in Conflict Involvement (n=60)

Concern as farmer in the conflict	Farmers (%)
Crop destruction, restoration of land for cultivation and unauthorized livestock grazing	75
Recovery of land for cultivation and crop destruction	15
Destruction of irrigation infrastructure, recovery of land for cultivation and crop destruction	5
Crop destruction and land destruction	3
Recovery of land for cultivation only	2
Total	100

Farmers` main concerns in this conflict include the following; crop destruction, recovery of land for cultivation, unauthorized livestock grazing, destruction of irrigation infrastructure and land destruction. Results in Table 2 show farmers` main concerns in conflict where 75%farmer respondents reported that crop destruction, recovery of land for cultivation and unauthorized livestock grazing was their concerns in that conflict. Other concerns of farmers in this conflict include; recovery of land for

cultivation and crop destruction (15%), destruction of irrigation infrastructure, recovery of land for cultivation and crop destruction (5%), crop destruction and land destruction (3%), and restoration of land for cultivation only (2%).

Table 3: Herdsmen Main Concern in Conflict Involvement (n=60)

Concern as herdsmen in the conflict	Herdsmen (%)
Grazing land and cattle route encroachment	68.0
Water for animals, grazing land and cattle route encroachment	30.0
Grazing land encroachment only	2.0
Total	100

On the other hand, herdsmen' main concern in conflict involvement were; grazing land, cattle route encroachment, water for animals and grazing land encroachment. Results in

Table 5 shows that herdsmen' main concern in conflict involvement was land and cattle route encroachment (68%) Other concern were water for animals, grazing land and cattle route encroachment (30%) and land encroachment only (2%).

4.2.3 Effects of Conflict to Farmers and Herdsmen

The effects resulting from farmers and herdsmen conflict involvement are many. Effect of conflict to farmers included; crop destruction, burning of homes, land given to herdsmen displacement from the village for five months, farming area taken by herdsmen, destruction of irrigation infrastructure and jailed suspected to involve in fighting. On the other side, the effect of conflict to herdsmen includes the following: animals were stolen, animals were killed, forced to leave grazing area, deaths, got

wounded and injured, grazing land were taken by farmers, forced to pay cattle for the committee, grazing land was burned by farmers and grazing land taken by farmers.

Table 4: Effects of Conflict to Farmers (n=60)

Effects of conflict	Farmers (%)
Crop destroyed	46
My home was burnt to ashes	14
My land was given to herdsmen	11
We were displaced from village for five months	11
The area of farming was taken by herdsmen	6
Destruction of irrigation infrastructure	3
Jailed being suspected to involve in fighting	3
Total	100

Results in Table 4 show that 46% of farmer respondents mention crop destruction as the main effect. Other effects reported by farmers include; burning of homes (14%), land given to herdsmen (11%), running out of village (11%), area for farming taken by herdsmen (6%), destruction of irrigation infrastructure (3%) and jailed being suspected to involve in fighting (3%).

Table 5: Effects of Conflict to herdsmen (n=60)

Effects of conflict	Herdsmen (%)
Animals were stolen	17
Displaced from home	13
My house was destroyed by farmers	13
Animals were killed	11
Forced leave my grazing area	9
My hay ban was burned by farmers	9
Deaths, got wounded and injured	9
My grazing land was burned by farmers	9
Grazing land were taken by farmers	6

Forced to pay cow for the committee	4
Total	100

Table 5 showed the effects of conflict to herdsmen, where it is seen that 17% of herdsmen reporting that their animals were stolen. Results further show the following effects; (i) displaced from home (13%), (ii) house destruction by farmers (13%), (iii) killing of animals (11%), (iv) forced to leave grazing area (9%), (v) hay ban burned by farmers (9%), (vi) deaths, got wounded and injured (9%), (vii) grazing land burned by farmers (9%), (viii) grazing land taken by farmers (6%) and forced to pay cow for the committee (4%). The study shows that herdsmen are complaining that all effects were caused by farmers.

4.3 Perception of Farmers and Herdsmen towards Each Other

In examining the effectiveness and sustainability of management strategies for conflict between farmers and herdsmen, the study sought the measurement of perception of farmers and herdsmen towards to each other this is because perception is one of the most important aspects of human behaviour. Perception is the organization, identification, and interpretation of sensory information in order to represent and understand the environment. All perceptions involve signals in the nervous system, which in turn result from physical or chemical stimulation of the sense organs. The following section therefore focuses on the perception of farmers towards herdsmen and vice versa.

Table 6: Perception of farmers towards herdsmen

Farmers' opinion on herdsmen	Agree (%)	Uncertain (%)	Disagree (%)
Herdsmen are not responsible with crop destruction	0	0	100
Destruction of crops is not done intentionally by herdsmen	0	7	93
Herdsmen take care on other properties	1	6	93
Herdsmen tend to value only their animals	91	0	7
Herdsmen have got large number of animals; they fail to control their animals	78	0	22
Herdsmen are not involved in land degradation	10	5	85
Herdsmen are the main cause of farm encroachment	90	5	5

In most cases farmers have a negative perception towards herdsmen which could be the main cause of conflict between these two groups. Results in table 6 show 91% of farmers reporting that herdsmen tend to value only their animals. Results show that farmers agreed and reported as follows; 78% agreed that herdsmen have got large number of animals and that they fail to control their animals and 90% farmer respondent said that herdsmen are the main cause of farm encroachment. Findings go further by showing that 100% farmers agree that herdsmen are responsible for the crop destruction. Results which show farmers to disagree are such as; 93% farmers disagree on the statement that destruction of crops is not done intentionally by herdsmen, 93% farmers disagree that herdsmen take care on other properties and also 85% farmer respondents disagree on the account that herdsmen are not involved in land degradation. The study indicates that farmers see herdsmen as very bad people and see them to be responsible for every bad thing such as crop destruction, land degradation and farm encroachment. This tendency of farmers to look herdsmen in a negative way

can increase hatred between these two groups which can increase the rate of conflict among these communities.

Table 7: Perception of herdsmen towards farmers

Herdsmen' opinion on farmers	Agree (%)	Uncertain (%)	Disagree (%)
Farmers are not responsible for encroaching grazing area	0	0	100
Farmers are not responsible for cattle route encroachment	0	0	100
Poor farming method cause land degradation which is the main cause of grazing land encroachment	70	5	25
Water sources destruction is not done by farmers	2	0	98
More water is not used by farmers for irrigation	0	0	100
Farmers are not always good people	80	10	10

On the other hand, herdsmen also perceive farmers in a negative way. Herdsmen see farmers as the barrier to their activities. They see farmers as being responsible for encroach grazing area, cattle route encroachment, poor farming method which is the main cause of land degradation and the main cause of grazing land encroachment, water sources distraction and use of more water for irrigation. Table 7 show results on perception of herdsmen towards farmers.

The results show that 100% herdsmen respondents disagreed with the statement that farmers are not responsible for encroaching grazing area. Results further show that 100% herdsmen disagree with the following statement; farmers are not responsible for cattle route encroachment, water is not used by farmers for irrigation and water sources destruction is not done by farmers. 98% herdsmen did not agree on this statement. 80% herdsmen agreed that farmers are not good people and also herdsmen

agree by 70% that poor farming method cause land degradation which is the main cause of grazing land encroachment.

The study shows that herdsmen also perceive farmers as very bad people and see them to be responsible for cattle route encroachment, responsible for encroaching grazing area, use more water for irrigation, water sources destruction and poor farming method which cause land degradation and the main cause of grazing land encroachment. The perception of farmers towards herdsmen and herdsmen towards farmers shows that each of the two groups is asserting each other the result which makes it difficult to resolve the conflicts.

The group of farmers and that of herdsmen have got negative perception towards each other and every group sees the other group as bad. Farmers see herdsmen as destructive to their crops; they believe that large number of livestock owned by herdsmen is responsible for land degradation and they graze on the area which could be suitable for crop production. Herdsmen blame farmers for encroaching their grazing area and cattle route. They blame farmers for using more water to irrigate their farms and use of poor farming method which cause land degradation which may results in grazing land encroachment.

4.4 Perception Towards Conflict

This section focuses on farmers` and herdsmen` perception towards conflicts. Both farmers and herdsmen got the same perception towards conflict. They agree that conflict is not good because it causes destruction of social relationships in the

community. Farmers and herdsmen understand the effect of conflict which includes loss of life, time, money and other resources.

Table 8: People's perception towards conflict

Peoples' opinion towards conflict	Farmers			Herdsmen		
	Agree (%)	Undecided (%)	Disagree (%)	Agree (%)	Undecided (%)	Disagree (%)
Destruction of properties does not occur during conflict	0	0	100	0	0	100
Loss of life is one of the effects of conflict	100	0	0	100	0	0
Destruction of social relationship does not occur during conflict	0	0	100	0	0	100
All parties involved in conflict suffered with the conflict	100	0	0	100	0	0
Everybody is doing enough to make sure that no more conflict in the village	20	0	80	22	0	75
Time, money and other resources are wasted during conflict	100	0	0	100	0	0

Results in Table 8 show that 100% respondents from both farmers and herdsmen share the same opinions of disagreeing that destruction of properties does not occur during conflict. Other results where farmers and herdsmen share the same opinion include; disagree by 100% on the idea that destruction of social relationship does not occur during conflict, 100% agree that loss of life is one of the effects of conflict, all parties involved in conflict suffer from conflict, this opinion was agreed by both farmers and herdsmen by 100% of all respondents. Both farmers and herdsmen agreed that time, money and other resources are wasted during conflict. Farmers and herdsmen differed

on opinions on how everybody was doing to make sure that conflict would not emerge in the village. Farmers said everybody is doing enough to end conflict in the village (20%) while 22% herdsmen said the same. Farmers 80% said that no enough effort done to end conflict in the village while 75% herdsmen said the same. Basing on the results of this study, both farmers and herdsmen share the same opinions about the effects of conflict.

4.5 Effectiveness of Conflict Management in the Study Area

This section deliberates on the effectiveness of the conflict management strategies utilized in the study area by looking at the way leadership addresses farmers and herdsmen concerns relates to conflict between them, and way the farmers and herdsmen assess the leadership efforts in resolving the conflict between them.

Table 9: The way farmers and herdsmen concerns are handled

The way concerns handled	Farmers (n=60) (%)	Herdsmen (n=60) (%)	Overall (n=120) (%)
Concerns are not fulfilled at all	55	60	58
Concerns are partly fulfilled	45	40	43
Total	100	100	100

Leaders are responsible for handling concerns of farmers and herdsmen. Effective handling of concerns is a major key towards solving conflict between farmers and herdsmen because the conflict between these two groups is based on their concerns. Leaders in different areas where conflict occurred have been blamed for not addressing farmers` and herdsmen` concerns. Results in Table 9 show farmers and herdsmen` responses related to how leaders address their concerns.

Results show that 55% the farmers reported that their concerns not fulfilled at all and 60% of herdsmen reported the same while 45% farmers' respondents said that their concerns are partly fulfilled and 40% herdsmen said the same. Results further show no significant variation between the two groups meaning that the two groups have the same opinion about the way the leadership addresses to the conflict. The study shows that farmers and herdsmen were not satisfied and they are still complaining because they were expecting their leaders to help fulfilling their concerns which were the source of conflict, the aspect not achieved.

Table 10: Farmers` and herdsmen` assessment on concerns fulfilment by village Heads

Opinions	Farmers (n=60) (%)	Herdsmen (n=60) (%)	Overall (n=120) (%)
Corruption	30	30	30
Ignorance of cause	2	5	2.3
Bad approach used to end the conflict	5	7	6
No transparency on the decision reached	5	15	10
They were forcing people to agree to issues people do not like	7	11	9
They were in favour of herdsmen/farmers	23	0	11.5
They were selfish	20	12	16
Used to force people	3	2	2.5
Brings farmers and herdsmen together	1	7	4
They advise farmers and herdsmen to talk	1	4	2.2
They tried to put down the fight	3	7	5
Total	100	100	100

In considering the reasons as to why farmers and herdsmen demands are either partially or not fulfilled, the study has established three main levels categories of leaders who are usually involved in conflict resolution. These include village leaders, district leaders and elders. Village leadership is a very important factor in solving conflict in the village. It would stop problems and also change conflicts into positive ways through their authority. Village leadership could solve conflict before sending them to the court or before small conflict grow to higher stage. They perform their roles based on their skills of disputes as well as conflict situations. Village leaders include the following; Village executive officer, Village chairperson and all members of the village council. Table 10 show results on how farmers and herdsmen assessed village leaders in fulfilment of the demands of farmers and herdsmen.

Results in Table 10 show that 30% farmers and herdsmen' each reported that village leaders are corrupt. The result further shows as follows; bad approach used to end the conflict, farmers (5%) and herdsmen (7%). Village leaders were ignorant of the cause, 2% farmers reported while herdsmen reported by 5% of respondents, no transparency on the decision reached reported by 5% farmers and 15% of herdsmen. Results show significant variation in the assessment of village leaders by the two groups, which imply that these two groups have different opinion toward their leaders. The study shows that village leaders were blamed by farmers and herdsmen for being corrupt, for using bad approach to end conflict, not being transparent, being in favour of herdsmen and selfishness. On the other hand, the two groups reported good performance by village leaders for being able to bring farmers and herdsmen together and advising the two groups to talk and being able to stop fighting.

Table 11: Farmers` and herdsmen` assessment on concerns fulfilment by district

Leaders

Opinions	Farmers	Herdsmen	Overall
	(n=60)	(n=60)	(n=120)
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Ignorance on cause of the conflict	11	11	11
Corruption from herdsmen	5	1	3
Use of police	27	27	27
Disliked the idea of separating grazing area and farming area.	5	5	5
Did not listen to the source of conflict	2	4	3
Did not mind to know the cause of conflict	2	6	4
Ignored to people`s ideas	2	2	2
Not recognize herdsmen as important as farmers	3	11	7
Interest of their group (Farmers/Herdsmen)	4	2	3
Preaching peace without maintaining it	2	8	5
They were threatening people and forced people to agree with what they wanted	4	2	3
They did not know the importance of Farmers/Herdsmen	2	2	2
Do not have knowledge on conflict resolution	2	6	4
They kept preaching peace without telling how to obtain it	5	5	5
They were forcing things of no interest to Farmers/Herdsmen	8	10	9
They were forcing things instead of making negotiation	6	2	4
Because did not listen to complain	9	9	9
Total	100	100	100

The district head is top leader in the district and is responsible for maintaining peace to all people in the district and works with clan heads and other heads of families to stimulate and coordinate the work of the district to meet district goals. Results in Table 11 show farmers' and herdsmen's assessment on the performance of fulfilling farmers' and herdsmen's concerns by district leaders was bad.

Farmers and herdsmen (27%) reported on the use of police by district leaders as one of the strategies used in solving the conflict between farmers and herdsmen, a practice disliked by farmers and herdsmen. Herdsmen (11%) reported that District leaders ignored herdsmen not being important as farmers. Other opinions of farmer and herdsmen include; (11%) farmers and herdsmen reported on district leader's ignorance about the cause of conflict, (10%) herdsmen said that district leaders were forcing things of no interest to herdsmen and (8%) farmers said the same. Farmers and herdsmen reported that district leaders do not listen to herdsmen and farmers complains (9%), farmer and herdsmen (5%) reported that district leaders disliked the idea of separating grazing area and farming area which was the cause of conflict in the village, corruption from herdsmen was reported by farmers (5%) and herdsmen (1%) as one of the poor performance of district leaders and (6%) herdsmen said that district leaders did not have knowledge on conflict resolution while reported it for (2%).

Results on farmers and herdsmen assessment on concerns fulfilment by district leaders shows that farmers and herdsmen were not satisfied by performance of district leaders in fulfilling their concerns hence obtaining resolution for conflict between farmers and herdsmen. Farmers and herdsmen reported on corruption among district leaders, ignorance of the cause of conflict, lack of knowledge on conflict resolution, ignore

people's ideas and use of police. All these could not help in solving farmers and herdsmen's conflict instead it was speeding up the conflict within these two communities.

Table 12: Farmers and herdsmen assessment on concerns fulfilment by Elders

Opinions	Farmers	Herdsmen	Overall
	(n=60)	(n=60)	(n=120)
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Elders were not given enough chance in solving this conflict	4	4	4
Interest of their group	1	3	2
Suggestion and recommendation based on interest of their groups either farmers or herdsmen	2	2	2
Suggestion/recommendation of elders based on their groups either farmers or herdsmen	1	1	1
They based on ethnic groups	4	2	3
They were after interest of their tribes	1	5	3
They were speaking for peoples' needs	4	4	2
Helped to solve the conflict	2	6	4
Made people talk but based on their ethnic groups	7	7	4
Managed to make farmers and herdsmen to talk	8	8	8
Managed to putdown the heat of conflict	5	5	5
Settling the conflict	3	1	2
Their efforts made to stop fighting	12	12	12
They advise farmers and herdsmen to talk	1	3	2
They advised to separate farming area and grazing area	4	4	4
They asked farmers and herdsmen to stop fighting	6	2	4
They give good advice which helped to settle down the conflict	6	6	6
They helped to settle the issue	2	2	2
They made farmers and herdsmen talk	4	4	4
They were speaking for peoples' needs	8	8	8
They managed to make farmers and herdsmen talk	2	4	3
They were helping to solve the conflict	1	1	1
They were trying to solve the conflict	8	8	8
Total	100	100	100

Farmers` and herdsmen` assessment on elders about the way concerns are fulfilled does not vary significantly. Further to that, unlike the case of district leaders where both farmers and herdsmen blamed district leaders as bad, results in Table 12 show that elders` performance in fulfilling farmers and herdsmen concerns is good. Results in Table 12 show that, both farmers and herdsmen reported elders` performance in fulfilling their demands was good, and both reported the same on the following: elders from both farmers and herdsmen managed to make the conflicting groups talk (8%), elders give good advice which helped to settle down the conflict (6%).

Further results reported by farmers and herdsmen include: elders were speaking for peoples' needs (8%), elders were not given enough chance in solving this conflict just from the beginning of that conflict (4%), elders managed to putdown the heat of conflict (5%) of both farmers and herdsmen, elders advised to separate farming area from grazing area this was said by 4% respondents, and 12% respondents said that efforts done by elders achieved to stop fighting. These results show the need to use elders in resolving farmers and herdsmen conflicts because in African culture elders are most respected and they are able to give constructive ideas which may be useful in their community, they know the root causes of the conflicts, they are close to their people and they are part of a particular society and therefore they do not need favours from their people like corruption so that to solve the conflicts in their societies.

4.6 Coping strategies among Farmers and Herders during Post Conflict Situation

Table 13. Distribution of the Farmers According to Coping Strategies.

Coping Strategies	Used	Uncertain	Not Used
Problem Oriented Strategies			
Working harder	83(69.2)*	12(10.0)	25(20.8)
Using experience	88(73.3)	23(19.2)	9(7.5)
Borrowing money	70(58.3)	18(15.0)	32(26.7)
Preparing for the worst	43(35.8)	11(9.2)	66(55.0)
Selling farm	44(36.7)	13(10.8)	63(52.5)
Buying food stuff	95(79.2)	6(5.0)	19(15.8)
Sowing less	49(40.8)	7(5.8)	64(53.3)
Shifting to another job	85(70.8)	6(5.0)	29(24.2)
Tightening farm security	29(24.2)	46(38.3)	45(37.5)
Using charms	35(29.2)	29(24.2)	56(46.7)
Average %	(51.8)	(14.2)	(34.0)
Emotion-Oriented Strategies			
Accepting conflict as fate	93(77.5)	6(5.0)	21(17.5)
Praying for peace	95(79.2)	6(5.0)	19(15.8)
Pretending the conflict wasn't bad	30(25.0)	18(15.0)	72(60.0)
Transferring of aggression	17(14.2)	16(13.3)	87(72.5)
Using drugs\alcohol	11(9.2)	24(20.0)	85(70.8)
Appeasing other party	30(25.0)	16(13.3)	74(61.7)
Average %	(38.4)	(11.9)	(49.7)
Support Seeking Strategies			
Help from relations	86(71.7)	0(0)	34(28.3)
Help from local leaders	27(22.5)	8(6.7)	85(70.8)
Help from local government	20(16.7)	6(5.0)	94(78.3)
Sought litigation	11(9.2)	5(4.2)	104(86.7)
Average %	(30.0)	(3.9)	(66.1)

*Figures in brackets are percentages of the conflict coping strategies

Source: Field survey 2018

Table 13 also illustrates that seeking assistance from friends and relatives was found to be the most commonly used SSCS among the farmers (71.7%) to ameliorate the effects of conflict. It was followed by seeking help from traditional institutions

(22.5%) and local government (16.7%). Discussions with the farmers revealed that referring to traditional leaders and the local government for assistance to cope with the conflicts is usually regarded as a last resort, because they do not offer such assistance. A small proportion of the farmers (9.2%) used litigation as a coping strategy, despite the fact that there are regulations regarding the use of agricultural land in the study area. This might be attributed to the findings of UNIFCPA, (2010) who reported that in conflict-affected areas, resource use managing institutions have often been weakened, politicized, and de-legitimized, and may not play a constructive role in the resolution of disputes.

Table 14. Distribution of Coping Strategies among Herders Involved in Conflicts

Coping Strategies	Used	Uncertain	Not Used
Problem oriented strategies			
Working harder	60(83.4)*	6(8.3)	6(8.3)
Using experience	45 (62.5)	7(9.7)	20(27.8)
Borrowing money	16 (22.2)	9(12.5)	47(65.3)
Preparing for the worst	48 (66.7)	7(9.7)	17(23.6)
Selling herds	14 (19.4)	4(5.6)	54(75.0)
Buying food stuff	18(25.0)	4(5.6)	50(69.4)
Reducing stock	57(79.2)	4(5.5)	11(15.3)
Shifting to another job	6(8.3)	5(6.9)	61(84.8)
Tightening herd security	53(73.6)	4(5.6)	15(20.8)
Using charms	46(63.9)	6(8.3)	20(27.8)
Average %	(50.5)	(7.7)	(41.8)
Emotion-oriented strategies			
Accepting conflict as fate	47(65.3)	3(4.2)	22(30.6)
Praying for peace	43(59.7)	3(4.2)	25(34.7)
Pretending conflict wasn't bad	54(75.0)	3(4.2)	15(20.8)
Transferring of aggression	28(38.9)	3(4.2)	41(57.0)
Using drugs\alcohol	40(55.6)	5(6.9)	27(37.5)
Appeasing other party	46(63.9)	5(6.9)	21(29.1)
Average %	(59.7)	(5.3)	(35)
Support seeking strategies			
Help from relations	46(63.9)	3(4.2)	23(32.0)
Help from local leaders	14(19.5)	5(6.9)	53(73.6)
Help from local government	11(15.3)	4(5.6)	57(79.1)
Sought litigation	11(15.3)	23(31.9)	39(52.8)
Average %	(28.5)	(12.2)	(59.4)

*** Figures in brackets are percentages of the coping strategies**

Source: Field survey 2018

The results from Table 14 showed that majority of the respondents (83.4 %) employ working harder as a coping strategy among herders, might indicate the comparative resilience of the respondents in the face of unfavourable situations. It is worrisome, however, that as much as 79.2 % of the herders adopted ‘reduced size of herds’ as coping strategy. Outcome of the focus group discussion with herders revealed that herders sold certain part of their herds to either pay compensation to the farmers for the crops destroyed, used the money to bribe conflicts management institutions or to engage in litigation. The herders attributed the continuous declining size of their herds to conflicts. They added that some herders’ size declined while that of other herders were completely lost, thus they resorted to engage in herding contract as laborers (biro) i.e. herding for other herder’s/cattle owners. The herders therefore concluded that in recent days, some of the Fulani (most especially youths) engaged in robbery as a result of loss of means of their livelihood. As a result of the alleged criminal records of the herders’ youths, Migrant herders are mostly denied access to settle in the study area until a confirmation was received from the community leader of the previous location of the herders exonerating them from any criminal activity.

The results further show that the herders were perhaps more security conscious (73.6 %) than the farmers. Herders tighten the security of their herds in anticipation of reprisals from the farmers for destruction of their crops, thus the herders used charms (63.9 %) and prepare for the worst (66.7 %) to attack the farmers. This scenario tends to indicate that herders were probably more bellicose or inclined to fight than the farmers. The herders most commonly perceived that the conflict was not bad (75.0 %) as EOCS during the aftermath of conflicts. The farmers attributed this position of the

herders to the superstitious belief that if the herders' flocks feed on the farmers' crops, the productivity of the herders' animal would increase. Regarding the conflict situation/consequences as an act of fate (65.3 %) was found to be the second most commonly used emotion-oriented coping strategy among the herders. Use of appease of the other party/payment of compensation for the crop destroyed to avoid litigation (63.9 %) was found to be higher among herders than farmers. This might indicate that farmers were more at the receiving end and needed to be appeased by the herders, and other conflicts actors involved.

It also, perhaps, shows that the herders and other conflict actors might be willing to compensate the obviously aggrieved farmers. But the outcome of focus group discussion with the herders revealed that some herders are not always willing to pay compensation to the aggrieved farmers, but rather prefer giving bribe to the traditional leaders to dismiss the case or using the money to engage in litigation. The farmers added that the herders hold the view that if the compensation was paid to the farmers, they will keep reporting subsequent destruction of their farm crops. The traditional leaders reported however, that they devised a strategy of assessing the farmers' crop damages for payment of compensation without the knowledge of the herders, and forward same amount for collection as bribe to the farmers. This arrangement clearly indicates the weakness of the traditional institutions in managing resource use conflicts. Some herders (mostly elders) prayed for peace (59.7 %) as a coping strategy.

Other coping strategies that are found to be adopted by herders include use of drugs/alcohol (55.6 %) and transfer of aggression (38.9 %). Focus group discussion confirms that some herders resorted to destroy other farmers' crops as reprisal for

payment of compensation. Table 14 further illustrates that the use of seeking assistance from friends, relatives and the herders' association (Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN) was the most often used SSCS (63.9 %) among the herders. It was followed by seeking help from traditional institutions (19.5 %). Engaging in litigation and seeking assistance from the local government were found to be the least coping strategies adopted by the herders.

4.7 Results of Regression Analysis (One Sample t-test)

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference between the mean rating of prior relationship between farmers and herders.

Table 15: One sample t-test of the mean ratings of prior relationship between farmers and herders.

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
FRAMERS	25.050	119	.000	10.52941	9.6904	11.3684
HERDERS		120	.000	11.35294	10.6920	12.0139

Table 15 revealed that a t-value of 25.050 was obtained with associated probability value of 0.00 using 2-tailed one sample independent test. Since the associated probability (0.00) was less than 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_{01}) was rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of prior relationship between farmers and herders.

Hypothesis two: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of the issues involved in farmers and herder's conflicts.

Table 16: One sample t-test of the mean ratings of the issues involved in farmers and herders conflicts and national security.

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
HERDERS	34.28	120	.000	11.35294	10.6920	12.0139
FARMERS	6	119	.000	8.52239	7.9229	9.1219

Table 16 revealed that a t-value of 34.286 was obtained with associated probability value of 0.00 using 2-tailed one sample independent test. Since the associated probability (0.00) was less than 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_{02}) was rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference between the main issues involved in farmers and herders conflicts and national security.

Hypothesis three: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of the effects of farmer-herder conflicts and national security.

Table 17: One sample t-test of the mean ratings of the effects of farmer-herder conflicts and national security.

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
HERDERS	30.77	120	.000	11.35294	10.6920	12.0139
FARMERS	4	119	.000	8.52239	7.9229	9.1219

FARMERS		120	.000	13.83824	12.9407	14.7358
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Table 17 revealed that a t-value of 30.774 was obtained with associated probability value of 0.00 using 2-tailed one sample independent test. Since the associated probability (0.00) was less than 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_{03}) was rejected. Thus, farmer-herder conflicts have a significant effect on national security in Nigeria.

Hypothesis four: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of the challenges of farmer-herder conflicts on national security.

Table 18: One sample t-test of the mean ratings of the challenges of farmer-herder conflicts on national security.

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
FARMERS	32.415	120	.000	11.35294	10.6920	12.0139
HERDERS		120	.000	10.23529	9.6050	10.8655

Table 18 revealed that a t-value of 32.415 was obtained with associated probability value of 0.00 using 2-tailed one sample independent test. Since the associated probability (0.00) was less than 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_{04}) was rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference between mean ratings of the challenges of farmer-herder conflicts on national security.

Hypothesis five: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of the strategies for curbing farmer-herder conflicts.

Table 19: One sample t-test of the mean ratings of the strategies of curbing farmer-herder conflicts.

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
FARMERS	36.407	120	.000	11.35294	10.6920	12.0139
HERDERS		120	.000	19.52941	18.4587	20.6001

Table 19 revealed that a t-value of 36.407 was obtained with associated probability value of 0.00 using 2-tailed one sample independent test. Since the associated probability (0.00) was less than 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_{05}) was rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of the strategies to mitigate the challenges militating against efforts at addressing farmer-herder conflicts for enhanced national security.

4.8 Discussion of Findings

Results show that the main cause of conflict between farmers and herders in Benue state is land which is used by farmers for cultivation and grazing for herders. This concern was not solved neither by leaders nor elders. Results show that leaders rejected the concept of separating farming from grazing area the idea which could have reduced direct collision between farmers and herders. The study indicates that farmers see herders as very bad people and see them to be responsible for every bad thing such as crop destruction, land degradation and farm encroachment. This tendency of farmers to look herders in a negative way can increase hatred between these two groups which can increase the rate of conflict among these communities.

The finding is in support of the study of Okoli and Atelhe (2014) and Adisa (2012) who concluded in their various studies that farmer-pastoralist conflicts have been associated with the conflict of land resource use exacerbated by dwindling resources. They linked this crisis to the theory of eco-violence, where environmental factors and exploitation of scarce resources leads to conflict and violence. This may explain the dwindling grazing resources (land and pasture) and poor management of existing grazing reserves as culpable.

The study shows that herders also perceive farmers as very bad people and see them to be responsible for cattle route encroachment, responsible for encroaching grazing area, use more water for irrigation, water sources destruction and poor farming method which cause land degradation and the main cause of grazing land encroachment. The perception of farmers towards herders and herders towards farmers shows that each of the two groups is asserting each other the result which makes it difficult to resolve the conflicts. Leaders in any society are responsible in peace maintenance within a particular community. The results show that farmers and herders do not trust their leaders because they blamed them for involving in corruption. These results indicate that strategies for managing the conflict between farmer and herders and the resolution obtained are not sustainable.

The study shows that there is no good result can be obtained by using power in solving conflict between farmers and herders. The study shows that conflict kept occurring despite extra power used especially by police force. The study further shows that, sustainable resolution is obtained by creating awareness to the community members to know the importance of peace keeping in their society, and involve people and

especially the conflicting groups to find out for their own what are the causes and what are the strategies suitable to end conflict.

The study indicates that farmers perceive herders as very bad people and see them to be responsible for every bad thing such as crop destruction, land degradation and farm encroachment. This tendency of farmers to perceive herders in a negative way it can increase hatred between these two groups which can increase conflict among these communities.

The study indicates that herders also perceive farmers as very bad people and see them to be responsible for cattle route encroachment, responsible for encroaching grazing area, use more water for irrigation, water sources distraction and Poor farming method which cause land degradation and hence the main cause of grazing land encroachment. The perception of farmers towards herders and herders towards farmers shows that each of the two groups is blaming each other the result which makes it difficult to resolve the conflicts.

Basing on the results of this study, both farmers and herders share the same opinions about conflict meaning that both farmers and herders have the same experience on the effects of conflict. In the first place both farmers and herders agree that conflict leads to loss of life and destruction of properties and social relationship which make life to become difficult.

The study shows that village leaders were blamed by farmers and herders for being corrupt, for using bad approach to end conflict, not being transparent, being in favour of herder and selfishness. These were bad things which leaders can do because instead of putting down the conflict these acts were speeding up the conflict.

These results show the need to use elders in resolving farmers and herders conflicts because in African culture elders are most respected and they are able to give constructive ideas which may be useful in their community, they know the root causes of the conflicts, they are close to their people and they are part of a particular society and therefore they do not need favours from their people like corruption so that to solve the conflicts in their societies. These results indicate that strategies set to managing the conflict between farmers and herders and the resolutions obtained are not sustainable instead it's a short lived resolution.

From the data analysis and interpretation of the results from the one sample t-test, the following findings emerged:

The prior or existing relationship between farmers and herdsman conflicts include: Better understanding of what caused the conflict, focusing on the management strategy that best address the problem between both parties, allowing parties in conflicts to find a reasonable solution on their own and resolving conflicts by ensuring that both parties accept fair terms of settlement. The result from the hypothesis reveal that there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of the prior relationship between farmers and herders.

The main issues involved in farmers and herders' conflicts include: crop destruction, land degradation and farm encroachment, cattle route encroachment, responsible for encroaching grazing area, use more water for irrigation, water sources distraction and Poor farming method which cause land degradation and hence the main cause of grazing land encroachment. The result from the hypothesis reveal that there was a significant difference between the mean ratings of the issues involved in farmer-herder conflicts in Nigeria.

The study finding also revealed the challenges of farmer-herder conflicts and national security to include: farmers and pastoralists for being corrupt, for using bad approach to end conflict, not being transparent, being in favour of pastoralist and selfishness. Finding from the hypothesis indicate that there was a significant difference between the mean ratings of the challenges of farmer-herder conflicts and national security management in Nigeria.

In relation to the effect of farmer-herder conflict on national security, the findings show that the conflicts have led to loss of life and destruction of crops, animals, houses, properties and social relationship which make life to become difficult. The tested hypothesis revealed that there was a significant difference between the mean ratings of the effect of farmer-herder conflicts on national security in Nigeria.

In relation to the strategies to mitigate the challenges militating against the efforts at addressing farmer-herder conflicts for enhanced national security, the findings of the study show that taking time to study what caused the conflicts, promoting an atmosphere of understanding between farmers and herders and allowing the conflicting parties to air their views, Discourages resentment and grudges between the groups. Result from the tested hypothesis reveal that there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of the strategies to mitigate the challenges militating against efforts at addressing farmer-herder conflicts for enhanced national security.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The broad aim of the thesis is to examine the effect of security management strategies on farmer-herdsmen conflicts in Benue State, North Central Nigeria. Chapter one of the study looks at the background of farmer-herdsmen conflicts in general and Nigeria in particular. The background centred on farmer-herdsmen conflict which has attracted considerable empirical and theoretical analyses within the academia in recent times. However, most of the previous studies conducted in Nigeria has failed to take into consideration the security management strategies but rather concentrate on other aspects of herder-farmer conflicts. It equally looks at the causes, nature and pattern of armed banditry in the border communities. It is in this regard that the study was undertaken to determine the effect of security management strategies on farmer-herdsmen conflicts in Benue State, North Central Nigeria which has not been adequately research by academicians. The thesis highpoint the challenges of political authorities and security apparatuses in addressing the implications of farmer-herdsmen conflicts. The chapter also look at the specific objectives, research questions, significance and scope of the study.

Chapter two presents the theoretical framework and relevant literature review. The chapter extensively reviews previous related studies, observations, opinions, comments, ideas and knowledge that shed light on the key concepts under discussion. The essence is to situate this study in proper context and to create a bond between related previous studies and this research work and as well to identify the gap in knowledge with respect to the study of the subject matter and to appropriately

intervene by providing the missing link and by updating and contributing to the existing body of knowledge in the field. Specifically, the chapter reviews relevant prior studies on the nature, causes, pattern and consequence of farmer-herdsmen conflicts, its perpetrators and the socio-economic effects on the victims. The aims of the review are: to find out the causes, nature and pattern of farmer-herdsmen conflicts, to identify and assess the efforts put in place by individuals, communities and governments law-enforcement agencies towards addressing the menace of farmer-herdsmen conflicts in the areas affected, to ascertain the security challenges associated with farmer-herdsmen conflicts and to examine the impact of farmer-herdsmen conflicts on the country's national security, economy and development

The chapter also review relevant theories that have the potential of explaining the research problem in a bid to identifying suitable model(s) that could satisfactorily address the problem of conflicts between farmers and herders which is widespread across the African continent and Nigeria in particular and the reasons for their occurrence are varied, stemming from the incompatibility of livelihood patterns between farmers and herders, alterations of symbiotic relationship, resentment of herders, destructions of farms by cattle and cattle rustling among others. Even though not all people of Fulani descent are herders, majority of them pursue a lifelong profession in cattle herding as owners of herds or hired labourers employed to take care of other people's cattle. They are predominantly found in the regions of Northern Nigeria, the Futa Toro and Futa Djallon regions of Senegal, Guinea and the Macina regions of Mali and eastward through Niger and Cameroon. These regions are noted to be places where the Fulani originate from. These developments have resulted in conflicts between farmers and Fulani herdsmen as cattle destroy farms in the area.

Matters got to a serious head when farmers alleged that herders had destroyed their farms, raped their women and murdered farmers in the area.

This study therefore argued that conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and farmers have been occasioned by the interest of chiefs in allocating land commercially which has resulted in the decline of fallow land for local farmers and led to conflicts between indigenous land users and migrants including conflicts between farmers and herders. By using ethnographic techniques such as semi-structured interviews, court records and reports, the study tried to examine the its effect conflict management on both herders and farmers. It also focused on the challenges, sustainability and strategies under which herders and farmers conflicts over land can be mitigated in the study area.

The movement of herder from one area of the country to another is usually caused by the increasing demand for fresh grazing grounds especially during draught period, when the herders move southwards because of the availability of pasture. In most cases, the herders do encounter problems with the local people because farmers' crops were being destroyed by their cattle. This accordingly have worsened resource conflict patterns and can be said to even grow more complex if not duly addressed by legislative action that will contain and manage grazing process in a way it won't metamorphose into another ethno-religious war.

The study thus contends that most of the underdevelopment challenges and resource curse arguments of the Nigerian state is a product of arable land resources mismanagement and underdevelopment politics by the political class of our nation.

Hence, there is poor political will by the government to strengthen its legal and constitutional structures above personal and ethnic consciousness that is still a clog to wheel of our national and human development in Nigeria.

Chapter three deals with research method adopted. The study applied a case study research design, because only one entity was studied with the ultimate aim of gathering data from the respondents on the impact of farmer and herders conflict on national security in Nigeria

It basically reviews the research design, the population and sample selection, data collection instruments, data analysis techniques and associated methodological problems that may be encountered. The validity and reliability test as well as the justification of data analysis instrument adopted were also discussed. The study collected primary and secondary data. Primary data provided a presentation of the actual information that was obtained to accomplish the aim of the study. This primary data was gathered using both open ended and closed ended questionnaires. The questionnaires were self-administered to the respondents who were picked for the purpose of analysis. Empirical and theoretical literature from books, journals and the internet were sourced for the purpose of collecting the secondary data. Descriptive statistics in the form of frequencies, percentages were used for analysis in the study. Statistical Package for Social sciences (SPSS) computer software will be used to present the data in the form of frequency, tables and percentages.

Chapter four discusses data analysis, presentation and interpretation. The research questions were tested and results presented. The results were presented and discussed

based on the research questions and specific objectives of the study. Findings from the analysis, interpretation and discussion of results revealed that the pattern of resource conflict has taken some dominant relationship between the Fulani herdsmen and arable farmers in the North Central Nigeria. This situation has resulted to incessant bloody conflict between the two interest groups in these regions. Our findings thus indicate that, in Nigeria, the level of institutional failure on the part government to promote people-centred bills in order to accommodate, mediate and resolve the lingering differences between concerned interest is still at infancy and would most likely implode into a lethal war that will be both expensive and devastating for the government to handle if not given the desired proactive responses.

Basing on the results of this study, both farmers and herders share the same opinions about conflict meaning that both farmers and herders have the same experience on the effects of conflict. In the first place both farmers and herders agree that conflict leads to loss of life and destruction of properties and social relationship which make life to become difficult.

The study shows that village leaders were blamed by farmers and herders for being corrupt, for using bad approach to end conflict, not being transparent, being in favour of herder and selfishness. These were bad things which leaders can do because instead of putting down the conflict these acts were speeding up the conflict.

These results show the need to use elders in resolving farmers and herders conflicts because in African culture elders are most respected and they are able to give constructive ideas which may be useful in their community, they know the root causes of the conflicts, they are close to their people and they are part of a particular society

and therefore they do not need favours from their people like corruption so that to solve the conflicts in their societies. These results indicate that strategies set to managing the conflict between farmers and herders and the resolutions obtained are not sustainable instead it's a short lived resolution.

The prior or existing relationship between farmers and herdsman conflicts include: Better understanding of what caused the conflict, focusing on the management strategy that best address the problem between both parties, allowing parties in conflicts to find a reasonable solution on their own and resolving conflicts by ensuring that both parties accept fair terms of settlement. The result from the hypothesis reveal that there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of the prior relationship between farmers and herders.

The main issues involved in farmers and herders' conflicts include: crop destruction, land degradation and farm encroachment, cattle route encroachment, responsible for encroaching grazing area, use more water for irrigation, water sources distraction and Poor farming method which cause land degradation and hence the main cause of grazing land encroachment. The result from the hypothesis reveal that there was a significant difference between the mean ratings of the issues involved in farmer-herder conflicts in Nigeria.

The study finding also revealed the challenges of farmer-herder conflicts and national security to include: farmers and herders for being corrupt, for using bad approach to end conflict, not being transparent, being in favour of herder and selfishness. Finding from the hypothesis indicate that there was a significant difference between the mean

ratings of the challenges of farmer-herder conflicts and national security management in Nigeria.

In relation to the effect of farmer-herder conflict on national security, the findings show that the conflicts have led to loss of life and destruction of crops, animals, houses, properties and social relationship which make life to become difficult. The tested hypothesis revealed that there was a significant difference between the mean ratings of the effect of farmer-herder conflicts on national security in Nigeria.

In relation to the strategies to mitigate the challenges militating against the efforts at addressing farmer-herder conflicts for enhanced national security, the findings of the study show that taking time to study what caused the conflicts, promoting an atmosphere of understanding between farmers and herders and allowing the conflicting parties to air their views, discourages resentment and grudges between the groups. Result from the tested hypothesis reveal that there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of the strategies to mitigate the challenges militating against efforts at addressing farmer-herder conflicts for enhanced national security.

5.2 Conclusions

The study shows that there is no good result can be obtained by using power in solving conflict between farmers and herders. The study shows that conflict kept occurring despite extra power used especially by police force. The study further shows that, sustainable resolution is obtained by creating awareness to the community members to know the importance of peace keeping in their society, and involve people and especially the conflicting groups to find out for their own what are the causes and what are the strategies suitable to end conflict.

The study indicates that farmers perceive herders as very bad people and see them to be responsible for every bad thing such as crop destruction, land degradation and farm encroachment. This tendency of farmers to perceive herders in a negative way it can increase hatred between these two groups which can increase conflict among these communities.

The study indicates that herders also perceive farmers as very bad people and see them to be responsible for cattle route encroachment, responsible for encroaching grazing area, use more water for irrigation, water sources distraction and Poor farming method which cause land degradation and hence the main cause of grazing land encroachment. The perception of farmers towards herders and herders towards farmers shows that each of the two groups is blaming each other the result which makes it difficult to resolve the conflicts.

In addition, both farmers and herders share the same opinions about conflict meaning that both farmers and herders have the same experience on the effects of conflict. In the first place both farmers and herders agree that conflict leads to loss of life and destruction of properties and social relationship which make life to become difficult.

The study shows that village leaders were blamed by farmers and herders for being corrupt, for using bad approach to end conflict, not being transparent, being in favour of herder and selfishness. These were bad things which leaders can do because instead of putting down the conflict these acts were speeding up the conflict.

These results show the need to use elders in resolving farmers and herders conflicts because in African culture elders are most respected and they are able to give

constructive ideas which may be useful in their community, they know the root causes of the conflicts, they are close to their people and they are part of a particular society and therefore they do not need favours from their people like corruption so that to solve the conflicts in their societies. These results indicate that strategies set to managing the conflict between farmers and herders and the resolutions obtained are not sustainable instead it's a short lived resolution.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions drawn from the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Conflict management committees set up by government should collaborate with farmers' and herdsmen's unions and associations in creating comprehensive awareness and compliance with designated stock routes. The collaborations should be at State, Zonal, Local Governments, and Village/Community levels through jointly established committees.
2. Traditional and local leaders should ask for support to established grazing and farming practices, rules and regulations while governmental agencies/ministries responsible for agriculture, lands, geographical information systems, forestry and natural resources should ensure proper delineation and regular revision of stock routes.
3. There is need for viable NGOs on farmer-herdsmen conflict management, especially in the areas of awareness, education, prevention, and amelioration. Furthermore, nongovernmental organizations should support livestock-centered livelihoods including cattle herding, not only in conflict mitigation but also in the support of grassroots innovations and in influencing favourable national policies.

4. Government policy is important in solving conflict between farmers and pastoralists. Land policy determines land acquisition and land ownership. Land policy must state clearly how to obtain, use and distribution of land to all users. Land which is the source of conflict between farmers and pastoralists its use is increasing and expanding and therefore the policy needs to be well known to all land users to avoid more conflict and to facilitate obtaining sustainable resolution related to land conflicts.
5. In order to make sure that conflict is managed effectively all stakeholders in the particular conflict must be involved to find out suitable strategies which will effectively handle the concerns of conflicting groups because the conflict is based on their concerns, this will facilitate to having sustainable resolution.
6. The Anti-Open Grazing law should be sustained to curtailed the menace of unaccounted wandering of herdsmen and cattle encroaching on farm land leading to conflict. This will avoid competition for the available few resources of land and water because it will enhance farmers and herders to make effective use of their respective areas.

5.4 Limitations of the Study

The basic limitation was the lack of statistics at the various communities visited in terms of records of conflict activities. All the security agencies claim not to have records of encounters of such activities or were afraid to disclose such information for security reasons and due confidentiality of their operations. As such, the research was based largely on unstructured interviews and questionnaire to collect data for the study.

The study is limited to the interior conflict communities of Benue State. In this regards the findings may not necessarily be applicable to all the other local government areas and states in Nigeria, but could shed some light as to the possible consequences to be suffered by such communities should they also experience incidents of farmer-herder conflict.

In addition, since the area and location of study is prone to herdsmen attacks, few of the respondents were not available to answer the questionnaire. However, the sample size was not deterred by the responses. Also most of the respondents could not speak English fluently, so translating and interpreting the questionnaire was a bit be difficult. However, this limitation was overcome as the research employ the services of research assistants who understand the native language and were familiar with terrain.

5.5 Suggestions for further Research

The present study focus on conflict management strategies on farmer-herder conflict and national security in Nigeria and Benue state in particular. Further studies can be conducted in other geopolitical zones having borders with neighbouring countries such as Niger and Chad to examine the nature, causes, patterns and consequences of herdsmen attack on such communities.

There are other independent variables which if taken care of can facilitate effectiveness and sustainability of management of conflict. Such independent variables include corruption, interest of farmers, interest of pastoralists, and interest of leaders. Other independent variables include crop destruction, water source

destruction, land degradation, farm encroachment and cattle route encroachment. Future studies can consider such variables to examine their effect on farmer-herder conflict.

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