

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF FARMERS- HERDER'S CONFLICT ON FOOD SECURITY IN BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

Apenda, Isaac Tersoo
Department of Sociology
Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina

Abstract

Nigeria in recent times particularly Benue state has become farmer-herders' conflict zone. Series of interpretations have been provided for the menace. This paper assessed how the conflict has impacted on food security in Benue State. The study adopts the theory of the tragedy of the commons which states that when a resource is collectively owned by a group of people, each will exploit the resource, overusing it, ignoring the group's collective interest, and thus ultimately destroy the resource. A survey design was used to obtain cross-sectional data through questionnaires, focused group discussions (FGDs) and oral interviews. A sample size of 320 farmers is selected from the population affected by this conflict. The paper uses descriptive statistical tools to analyse the data. It is found that so many human lives were lost; farm lands, residences and schools were destroyed leading to a decline in farm output (causing food insecurity) and human capital loss. The study recommends a strong government policy on the localization of the pastoralists in line with the world best practices to avoid further conflicts.

Keywords: Food Security, Conflict, Farmers, Herders

Corresponding Author: Apenda, Isaac Tersoo

Background to the Study

The frequent clashes between herdsmen and farmers in the predominantly farming areas of Benue state has resulted in the destruction of lives and farmlands and has become a major threat to efforts to boost food production which is the major diversification option of the present administration of President Muhammadu Buhari. The conflicts have left in its trail heavy losses of lives and properties. These losses of lives have adversely affected farming activities and other related businesses. This has resulted in a drastic reduction in farm outputs, a development that has heightened the fear of hunger. Already most farmers in the State have abandoned farms for fear of being attacked by the herdsmen. For the predominantly farming communities in Benue and other border communities of Nasarawa and Taraba states, farming is no longer business as usual. Several farmers have been displaced and dispossessed of their farms by armed men believed to be Fulani herdsmen (Eme et al, 2014).

Nine out of the 23 local governments in Benue state, namely Guma, Gwer-West, Agatu, Logo, Kwande, Ukum, Tarka and the Northern part of Makurdi are mostly affected by the rampaging herdsmen have tale of woes to tell. The effects of the sustained Fulani war in the affected localities have led to farmers' reluctance to go back to their farms even as the current farming season is far gone. For examples, the able bodied young men did not have interest in Agriculture but prefer staying in the urban areas for petty businesses like Okada and so on, the women from the rural local governments have also preferred to stay away from farms for fear of being killed or raped by the marauders.

The negative effects of these conflicts coupled with the impractical policies of the federal government regarding food production and importation, prices of essential commodities and food products have skyrocketed making them unaffordable to the common man.

The Prices of rice, for example, has been hitting historic highs of N21, 000 per bag (50kg), triggering a panic amongst the people across the country. Persistent increase in prices of other staple products such as fish, bread, meat, cereals, chicken, yam, onions, beans, vegetable oil, tomatoes, groundnut oil and others have aggravated the continued woes of the common man. Shortage of products and ever-increasing prices has created unsettling sentiments across communities, dampening the country's efforts to end poverty. There are estimates that more than 65 per cent of the Nigerian population is food insecure (Osagie, 2013).

It is against this background that this study seeks to assess the impact of farmers and herdsmen's conflict on food security in Benue State.

Objectives of the Study

- i. To examine the socio-economic characteristics of farmers in Benue State.
- ii. To explore the pattern and dimension of farmers- herder's conflict in the area.
- iii. To assess the impact of farmers-herder's conflict on food security

Conceptual Framework

Conflict

The penetrating effects of conflict the world over today, calls for a wholesome investigation; and evaluation of the nature and general character of the phenomenon. It is imperative to conceptualized and examine conflict. The contemporary world is built around conflict. In fact it exists in all societies. No society; be it modern or traditional, is devoid of conflict. However, conflicts vary in degree and form of expression which could be verbal, ideological, psychological or physical. These conflicts according to Yecho, (2006) are sometimes variously branded political, religious, ethnic and economical in nature, depending on the most plausible and favourably acceptable variable which could be used as an explanatory note at the material time. What then is conflict?

Stagner (cited in Onuaha) defines conflict as a situation in which two or more human beings desire goals which they perceive as being obtainable by one or the other, but not by both; each party is mobilizing energy to obtain a goal, a desired object or situation and each party perceives the other as a barrier or threat to that goal. While Stagner conceives conflict from the point of view of incompatibility of goals, Coser (1956:3) perceives it in terms of the struggle between parties over desirable values. According to him, conflict refers to: Struggle over values or claims to status, power, and scarce resources, in which the aims of the conflicting parties are not only to gain the desired values, but also to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals. Such conflicts may take place between individuals and collectivities. Although conflict may be conceived from different perspectives, one crucial defining element of it is the presence of two or more actors struggling to secure a thing of value or adjudged to be valuable of which the gain by any of the actors amounts to a loss or deprivation to the other actor(s). The benefit that goes with access to or control of the 'valuable' and the deprivation or insecurity that follows denial of access underlie all conflicts. In this wise, Mark and Synder (1971:8-9) contend that a key element of all conflicts is the existence of resource scarcity where the wants of all actors cannot be fully satisfied and where the quests for such resources result in conflict behaviour.

Dougherty and Pfalzgarff (1981) asserts that, “the term conflict usually refers to a condition in which one identifiable group of human beings in a given environment (whether tribal, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religions, socioeconomic, political, among others) is engaged in conscious opposition to or more identifiable human groups because these groups are pursuing what are or appear to be incompatible goals”.

Stranger as quoted in Angya and Doki (2006:190) defined conflict as a situation in which two or more human beings desire goals which they perceive as being obtainable by one or the other, but not both. Each party is mobilizing energy to obtain a goal, a desired object or situation and each perceives the other as a barrier or threat to that goal. Coser (1956) also agrees with the above premise where he observes that; Conflict comes from an incompatibility of goals a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources in which the aims of the opponent are to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals. Arguing in the same vein Newnham (1998) asserts that “conflict is a social condition which arises where two or more parties pursue goals which are compatible “this is indeed a good description of persistent farmers /herders' conflict in Central Nigeria where the farmers struggle to have access to fertile lands while the herders pursue good pasture and water for their herds. Yecho(2006:115) sees conflicts as a

condition of disharmony within an interaction process. This usually comes about as a result of clash of interests between the parties involved in some form of relationship. Conflict is an evitable outcome of human dynamics and diversity. Its major source in any given society is derivable from the pursuit of divergent interests, goals and aspirations by individuals or group in a defined socio-economic and geo-political environment (Otitte, 1999). He further stated that the nature of conflict however changes as the society progresses and new avenues for conflict are emerged.

Okpaga (2002) sees conflicts as manifesting themselves as in the struggle to acquire wealth and positions of power, influence and prestige. He then directs us to examine the role of individuals and community development organizations in fueling these conflicts. According to him, these groups of people generate conflicts when their individual and corporate existence is threatened. His explanation of conflict is also very important for this study because these people have been together for quite a long time but what has happened? Chaphin (1979) defined conflict as “the simultaneous occurrence of two or more mutually antagonistic impulse or motives”. It was further described by Wilson and Hanna (1979) as “struggle involving opposing ideas, values, and or limited resources”. In a behavioral term, Deutsh (1973) as cited in Olabode and Ajibade (2010) sees conflict as an action, which prevents, obstructs, interferes with, injures or renders ineffective another action with which it is incompatible. Essentially conflict connotes disagreement, dispute, or controversy in ideas or viewpoints held by two or more individuals /group which end up in disharmonious interpersonal relationship.

Conflict, in this context, is defined as a situation of struggle between and/or among opposing individuals, groups, communities or states over certain perceived desirable values arising from differences in the action of any of the parties in the quest to realise or secure those values. The struggle may be over tangible values such as money, property, land, water, mineral resources, or animals. It may be intangible values such as power, influence, title, respect, and position, to mention but a few. Conflict thus arises from the interaction of individuals or groups who pursue incompatible goals using incompatible means, leading to a situation of deprivation for any of the parties. It assumes a violent dimension when: (i) there is no superior force or effective regulatory mechanism to balance the struggle and thus prevent the situation from becoming more intense, and (ii) the parties involved employ physical force or lethal means to inflict injury and damage, or to eliminate the opponent in the quest to secure the value(s) at stake.

Food Security

Food security is the condition in which all have access to sufficient food to live healthy and productive lives (World Bank, 1986). United States Agency for International Development.

(USAID) Bureau for Africa, (1986:12) defined food security as a situation “*When all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life*”. Food security is dependent on agricultural production, food imports and donations, employment opportunities and income earnings, intra-household decision-making and resource allocation, health care utilization and caring practices (Eme etal, 2014).f

According to Eme et al (2014) food security is a broad concept which cuts across many dimensions. It means access to adequate food for a healthy life. This definition points to at least two parts of this complex concept: access to available food and adequate nutrient intake for sustainable health. It is a complex and tricky task to formulate a one-size-fits-all set of food security targets. This is clear from the multiple determinants of the food security status of a household or its members. The most salient determinants can be summarized in the following ways:

1. *Household composition*: Households vary in terms of size (number of household members), age structure (adults and children) and gender (females and males). Nord and Hopwood (2007) examined the importance of household composition insofar as it aids in understanding the food security status of children in the household.
2. *Wealth and livelihood strategy*: This consists of various incomes (wages, social grants, etc) and assets (land, livestock, etc.).
3. *Geographic location*: This refers to the rural and urban locations, whether the settlement is largely formal or informal, and distance from the nearest or from frequently-used food markets, as for the sake of this study, a city (urban) is being considered.
4. *Institutions*: markets, the state, social capital/networks.
5. *Time*: the food security condition could be transitory or chronic.
6. *Risk*: shocks that are related to the weather, health as well as commodity price movements.

According to World Bank (2001), food security is of three folds, these are food availability, food accessibility and food affordability. Food availability for farming households means ensuring sufficient food for the households through production. However, it should be noted that simply making food available is not enough; one must also be able to purchase it, especially the low income households (Sen, 1981). Hence, food security connotes physical and economic access to adequate food for all household members, without undue risk of losing the access. The concept of food security has expanded beyond the strict biological requirements of sustenance for survival. Food security does include consuming at a level adequate for physical and mental health and also includes the right to cultural preferences. It also includes obtaining the food in appropriate proportion (Robertson, 1990). Food security therefore involves interconnected domains, with questions of agriculture, society, environment, employment and income, marketing, health and nutrition, and public policy (Pottier, 1999).

An Overview of the Farmers-herdsmen's Conflict in Benue State

It is important to establish the context of intergroup contact and interaction between the Tiv, a sedentary group, and the Fulani, a nomadic pastoralist group in central Nigeria (Wegh, & Moti, 2001 cited in Genyi (2014). The Tiv is the largest ethnic group in Central Nigeria, numbering nearly five million, with concentration in Benue State, but found in considerable number in Nasarawa, Taraba and Plateau States (NPC, 2006). The Tivs are 98 percent or predominantly Christians. The Tiv are believed to have migrated from the Congo and Central Africa, and to have settled in central Nigeria in early history (Rubingh, 1969; Bohannans 1953; East, 1965; Moti and Wegh, 2001). The current Tiv population is significant, rising from 800,000 in 1953. The impact of this population growth on agricultural practice is varied but critical to intergroup relations (Genyi, 2014).

The Tiv are predominantly peasant farmers who live on the land and find sustenance from it through its cultivation for food and income. Peasant agricultural practice was a common occupation of the Tiv people until inadequate rains, declining soil fertility, population expansion and conflicts resulted in low crop yields, forced Tiv farmers to embrace non-farm activities such as petty trading. When the Tiv population was relatively small compared to the available land for cultivation in the 1950s and 1960s, shifting cultivation and crop rotation were common agricultural practices. With the steady expansion of the Tiv population, coupled with their customary, scattered-sparse settlements for accessing and controlling land use, cultivable spaces shrunk rapidly. However, many Tiv people have remained peasant farmers, and have maintained the cultivation of stretches of land available for food and income covering a wide variety of crops.

The Herdsmen (Fulani) who are predominantly Muslims are a pastoralist group who are by occupation traditional cattle herders. Their search for conditions conducive to raising their herds keeps them on the move from one place to another, and specifically to areas with pasture and water availability and no tsetse fly infestation (Iro, 1991). The Fulani are known by several names including Fulbe, Peut, Fula and Felaata (Iro, 1991, de st. Croix, 1945). The Fulani are said to have originated from the Arabian Peninsula and migrated into West Africa. According to Iro (1991), the Fulani use mobility as a production strategy to access water and pasture and, possibly, markets. This movement takes the pastoralists to as much as 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, making the Fulani the most diffuse ethno-cultural group (on the continent), and seen as only slightly impacted by modernity in regards to pastoralists' economic activity. The nomadic Fulani in Nigeria move southwards into the Benue valley with their cattle seeking pasture and water from the onset of the dry season (November to April). The Benue valley has two major attractive factors—water from the Benue rivers and their tributaries, such as River Katsina-Ala, and a tsetse-free environment. The return movement begins with the onset of rains in April and continues through June. Once the valley is saturated with heavy rain and movement is hampered by muddy areas threatening the very survival of the herds and shrinking passage due to farming activities, leaving the valley become inevitable.

Theoretical Framework

The study adopts the theory of the Tragedy of the Commons to explain the farmers/herdsmen's conflict by explaining the link between climate change and the conflict in Benue State.

The theory states that when a resource is collectively owned by a group of people, each will exploit the resource, overusing it, ignoring the group's collective interest, and thus ultimately destroy the resource. The theory postulated by Hardin (1968). He explained the 'tragedy' by using the example of a pasture which is open to all to use. This open pasture is used by herdsmen to allow their cattle to graze and each herdsman will continue to add cattle to the pasture so as to expand the amount of proceeds coming from their herd. The Commons dilemma stands as a model for a great variety of present resource problems such as freshwater scarcity and pollution, land degradation, and the depletion of non-renewable energy sources. So, in terms of Hardin's theory, the earth's atmosphere is the 'common'. The 'tragedy' is the damage done to the atmosphere that causes global warming, climate change and environmental scarcity shared by all. As the resources become scarcer, competition and conflict over them will increase.

Patterns and Dimensions of the Farmers- Herder's Conflict in Benue State

Conflicts have existed between the Fulani herders and Tiv farmers in spite of the cordial relationship these groups have enjoyed in the past. The pattern and dimension which the conflict had assumed in recent times has become a source of concern to most scholars. This research has attempted to identify a few new and different patterns and dimensions to this conflict.

Weapons Used: Before now, conflicts between the herders and farmers, when they took a dimension that could be referred to as dangerous, involved the use of traditional weapons such as machetes, bows and arrows. The nature of weapons used now include but are not limited to locally made pistols, dane guns, rifles, sub-machine guns, light machine guns and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). According to AOAV and NWGAV (2013), Islamic terrorist groups to which Fulani herders are close with, look to Chad, Niger and Cameroon for their weapons. Corrupt security personnel have sometimes lured out their weapons for short periods of time and former personnel have donated large number of weapons (Fefa and Tough, 2015).

In fact, Dura (2014) held the view that, it is alleged that the attackers used chemical weapons on local population in at least two local governments in Benue State (Guma and Gwer West)-the chemicals were reportedly discharged by guns and in one case, via an aircraft-resulting in the deaths of members of the local communities and in another case, in the deaths of about 33 of the attackers themselves who were directly under the spray of the chemical being discharged by the aircraft. The pattern and dimension introduced threaten the unity and corporate existence of Nigeria.

Coordination and Spontaneity of the Attacks: The attacks on the Tiv farmers by the Fulani herders became highly technically coordinated. For example, the nine local government namely Guma, Katsina-Ala, Gwer west, Makurdi, Logo Agatu, and Kwande which came under direct attacks by the herders, were attacked spontaneously with high level of coordination planning, calculation and execution of never been experience in the state. The conflict has turned terrorists in pattern and dimension. According to McGregor (2014), reports of Boko Haran terrorist distinguishing themselves as Fulani herdsmen while carrying out attacks in rural Nigeria are common. Many of these reports may be attempts to deflect responsibility from Fulani herders for attacks on sedentary farming communities throughout central Nigeria, but Fulani herdsmen have joined forces with Boko Haram could propel Nigeria into a new and devastating civil war.

Empirical Review

Aliyu (2004) opined that “conflicts in Nigeria are of diverse types and have been on rapid increase since after the civil war of 1967-1970”. This had led to the expulsion of 700 pastoralists from Borno state in the northeast in May 2009 and some 2,000 from Plateau in April, according to local authorities (IRIN, 2010). These conflicts are mainly attributable to resource control and divergent value systems in the country. Homer-Dixon (1996) in his study attributed farmers/herders' conflict to environmental scarcity as being the major issue that induces conflict involving three main factors: the degradation and depletion of renewable resources, the increased consumption of such resources, and their uneven distribution. According to him, the relationship between environmental scarcity and conflict is a complex one. That is, the renewable resource scarcity can produce civil conflict, instability, large and

destabilizing population movements, aggravate racial ethnic or religious tensions, and incapacitated political and social institutions. In the same vein Olabode and Ajibade (2010) in their study on environmental induced conflict observed some causes of Herders-Farmers' conflict as control of scarce resources, incompatible values, pasture searching, proximity and water scarcity. Ofuoku and Isife (2009) in their study on causes and effects of farmers/herders conflict in Delta State identified rape, as one of the major causes of conflict, they stated that rape is a taboo to every society in the world and in Africa in particular, it is not taken lightly. Okoli and Atelhe (2014) in their study on Nomads against Natives in Nassarawa State posits that farmer/ herder conflicts have been informed by the desperate struggle for competitive survival and subsistence in an environment characterized by ecological scarcity and livelihood insecurity. They observe that the situation has been exacerbated by the phenomenon of climate change, whose dynamics tend to have been aggravating natural resource conflicts across the world

Methodology

A survey design was used to obtain cross-sectional data through questionnaires, focused group discussions (FGDs) and oral interviews.

Area of Study

Benue State lies within the lower Benue River trough in the middle-belt region now referred to as north Central Nigeria. Its geographic coordinates are longitude 7° 47' and 10° 0' East, Latitudes 6° 25' and 8° 8' North. It shares boundaries with five other states, namely, Nassarawa to the north, Taraba to the east, and Cross River to the south, Enugu to the south-west and Kogi to the west. The state also shares an international boundary with the Republic of Cameroun on the south-east. Benue State has a population of 4,244,219 (2006 Census), predominantly agrarian and occupies a landmass of 32,518 square kilometers.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The study adopted a survey design technique via a cross-sectional approach that involves field and sample surveys. The study adopted purposive and random sampling techniques in order to select Tiv farmers from the locations affected by the conflicts in Ukum, Tarka, Guma, Gwer West, Katsina-Ala, Logo, Makurdi, Kwande and Agatu Local Government Areas in Benue State. The study covered only those that are affected by Fulani herdsmen attacks. A sample size of 320 Tiv farmers was chosen from the population of about 500,000 Tiv farmers who were affected by Fulani herdsmen attack.

Data were collected through an open-ended and structured questionnaire, Oral interview, personal observations and Focused group discussion (FGDs), because, the study was aimed at eliciting both qualitative and quantitative information pertaining the impact of the conflict on Tiv farmers which led to food insecurity in Benue state.

Method of Data Analysis

Data was analysed using descriptive statistics and regression analysis. Descriptive statistics including frequency distributions, tables, charts, percentages, and means were used to analyse the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.

Results and Analysis

Demographic Information and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Households in Study Area

This research made efforts to obtain data on demographic and socio-economic characteristics of household (respondents) in the study area. These included among others age, sex, and marital status, family size and level of education.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by their Demographic Information and Socio-Economic Characteristics

Observation	Number of Respondents (Frequency)	Percentage (%)
<u>Age (Years)</u>		
Below 30	80	25
31-60	190	59.4
61 and above	50	15.6
Total	320	100
<u>Sex</u>		
Male	200	62.5
Female	120	37.5
Total	320	100
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Single	85	26.6
Married	185	57.8
Divorced	40	12.5
Widow/widower	10	3.12
Total	320	100
<u>Household Size</u>		
1-4	98	30.6
5-7	176	55
8 and above	46	14.4
Total	320	100
<u>Level of Education</u>		
No formal education	15	4.7
Primary education	198	61.8
Secondary education	80	25
Higher education	27	8.4
Total	320	100
<u>Number of dependents</u>		
1-2	70	21.8
3-4	168	52.5
5 and above	82	25.6
Total	320	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016. Age of Respondents

The analysis of Table 1 revealed that 25% of the respondents are below the age of 30 while 59.4% are within the age bracket of 31 and 60 considered as most productive age. The remaining 15.6% represents the age grade of the aged (61 years and above) respondents. This implied that, about 75% of the respondents fall within the productive age. Note that, the “Below 30 years” is implied of those from 18-29 years.

Sex: the Analysis of the respondents' sex showed that 62.5% of the respondents were male while the remaining 37.5% constitute the female proportion of the sample. The low participation of female in the activities may not be unconnected with the cultural inclination that the men represent all the interest of their families.

Marital Status: Table 1 showed that majority of the respondents (57.8%) is married while 26.6% are single. The remaining 15.62% of the respondents constitute those who were married but are now single either as a result of divorce or death of spouse.

Household Size: Household size is an important variable that determine total household food requirement, and can thus affect per capita food consumption and overall household food security, as well as other household basic needs. Table 1 presents the distribution of the sampled respondents by household size. It showed that 30.6% of the respondents have a household size of between 1-4 people, while 55% have a household size of 5-7 people while the remaining 14.4% is constitute a house size of 8 members and above.

Educational Status: Table 1 presents the distribution of the sampled respondents by educational level. It showed that only 4.7% of the respondents had no formal education while the remaining 94.1% have one form of formal education or the other. Out of the proportion with formal education, 61.8% have primary education, 25% have secondary education and the remaining 8.4% have tertiary education. This point to the fact that majority of the sampled respondents are at least literate.

Number of Dependants: The level of dependants in a household is a determinant of the living condition of the household. Table 1 revealed that 21.8% of the respondents have between 1-2 dependants while 52.5% have between 3-4 dependents and the remaining 25.6% have five and above dependents

Table 2: Distribution of the sampled farmers by their Annual Income before and During Farmers- herdsman's Conflict

Amount (N)	During Fulani Attack		Before Fulani Attack	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
≤ 100,000	280	87.5	20	6.25
100,001 - 200,000	40	12.5	55	17.2
200,001- 300,000	0	0	80	25
300,001 and above	0	0	165	51.6
Total	320	100	320	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

In order to show clearly the annual income of the respondents before and during groundnut production, the data in Table 2 was used to construct a bar chart as shown below.

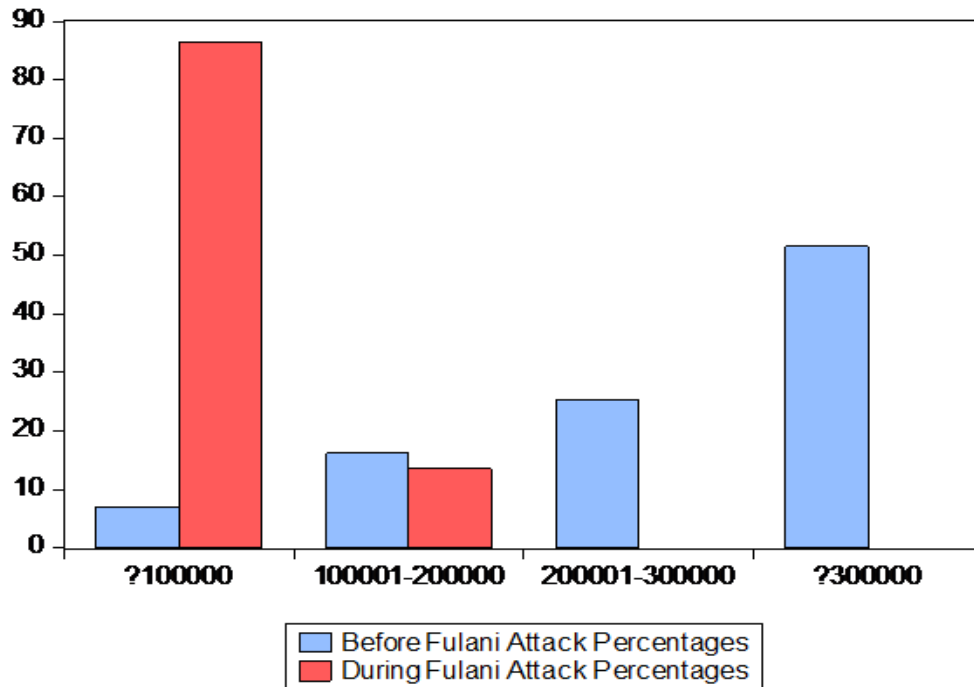


Figure 1: Multiple Bar Chart showing Income (i.e Farm output) of sampled Tiv farmers

Table 2 showed the agricultural output of the sampled respondents before and during Fulani herdsmen attack on Tiv farmers in Benue state. It is evident from the table that majority (87.5%) of the respondents have agricultural output of less than or equal to N100 000 during the Fulani herdsmen attack on Tiv farmers while 12.5% of the respondents have agricultural output of between N100 001 and N200 000 but no percentage of the respondents that have agricultural output of neither between N200 001 and N300 000 nor above N300 000 during the Fulani attack. Before the Fulani attack, the agricultural output of the sampled respondents showed 51.6% of the sampled respondents agricultural output of above N300 000 as compared to the 0% when the respondents had been attacked by Fulani herdsmen. The percentage of those who have agricultural output of between N200 001 and N300 000 rose from 0% to 25% while the percentage of those with agricultural output of below N100,000 has increased during the Fulani herdsmen attack which indicate an increase in the agricultural output of the respondents during the times of no conflict.

The Impacts of the Farmers/herdsmen's Conflict on farmers in Benue State

Data on the impact of Farmers/ herder's conflict on the farmers were collected and presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by their Perceived impact of the Conflict on the Farmer's in Benue State

S/No.	Effect	Frequency	%	Rank
1.	Loss of human lives (Depletion of labour for farm and other economic activities)	320	100	1 st
2.	Destruction of educational institutions and loss of school attending time	320	100	1 st
3.	Destruction of health facilities	320	100	1 st
4.	Destruction of farms, farm outputs, etc (food insecurity)	320	100	1 st
5.	Exposition to abject poverty through loss of basic needs-clothes shelter and food	320	100	1 st
6.	Psychological trauma of watching relations being helplessly murdered in cold blood	281	82.64	9th
7.	Displacement of victims by attackers	320	100	1 st
8.	A permanent of feeling of hate to see Fulani men irrespective of whether they herders or not	320	100	1 st
9.	Feeling of betrayed and outright distrust among the Tiv brothers and sisters for leaking vital information to Fulani herdsmen to attack their fellows	291	85.58	8th

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Findings

Following the data collected and analysed on socio-economic variables, the study found that the conflicts have negative impact on agricultural production activities in Benue State. It has affected the farmer's output in the study area.

Conclusion

We have seen the negative impact these conflicts have created for the agricultural sector in the area which used to be the food basket of the nation. The below recommendations should be taken seriously. The present government is preaching diversification of the economy but implementation of policies in our country is always a different thing altogether, we pray that this time, we should religiously pursued agriculture to reduce our dependence on imports, poverty and unemployment.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following measures are recommended to resolve the conflict in order to boost agricultural productivity in the area to enable Benue State to be food secured and still claim the Food basket of the nation as it used to be.

1. Government should provide public enlightenment campaigns, seminars and symposia to sensitize the farmers and herdsmen on the divesting impacts of this conflict.
2. Conflict control strategies such as regular meetings and dialogue should be encourage among the farmers and herdsmen by the community leaders to avert conflict

1. There should be a joint peace and conflict resolution committee made up of the farm community and the herder's constituted by the Government to be reporting the activities of the groups to Government.
2. The government should began to plan on how provision of ranches will be feasible if not provision of land for grazing reserves will definitely not be possible in Benue State.

Reference

Angya, C.A & Doki, G. A (2006). Women Participation/ Involvement in conflict Management in Benue State: A review. In Timothy T. Gyuse and Oga Ajene (eds.) *Conflicts in the Benue valley*, Makurdi: Benue state University Press

Coser, L. A. (1956). *The Functions of Social Conflicts*. Glencoe: The Free Press.

Dougherty, C & Pfalzgarff, O. (1981). *Contending theories of international relations: A comprehensive survey*. Longman: (5th Edition), ISBN10: 0321048318.

Figures for Old Stories: Migration and Remittances in Nepal. Migration Letters

Eme, D., Onyishi, O., Uche, O. & Uche, I. B. (2014). Food insecurity in Nigeria: A Thematic Expansion. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review (OMAN Chapter)*, 4(1).

Fefa, J. & Tough, B.T (2015). *The Socio-Economic Effect of the Conflict between Tiv Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen in Benue State*. Being a Paper Presented at the First International Conference organized by the Department of Political Science, Benue State University, Makurdi on the theme: November 5-7, 2014

Genyi, G. A (2014). Being a paper presentation at the first Annual International Conference on the *Ethnic and Religious Conflict Resolution and Peace building, October1, 2014*. London: New York City.

Ofuoku, A. U., & Isife, B. I. (2009). Causes, effects and resolution of farmers-nomadic cattle herders' conflict in Delta state, Nigeria. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 1(2): 047-054. Available online <http://www.academicjournals.org/ijsa>

Okoli, A. & Atelhe, G. A. (2014). Nomads against natives: A political ecology of herder/farmer conflicts in Nasarawa state, Nigeria. *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*. 4. No. 2.

Olabode, A. D. & Ajibede, I. T. (2010). Environment Induced conflict and sustainable development: A case of Fulani farmers conflict in Oke-Ero GGAS, Kwara state, Nigeria, *Journal of sustainable development*, 12 (5), 259-273

Okpaga, A. (2002). Communal conflicts in Idomaland: Some theoretical and overviews, in Bur, A (Ed) Op.cit Osagie, C. (2013), *Fear of Food Insecurity Grips Nigeria, Saturday This Day*, November 8, P.24.

- Uji, W.T (2016). Forced Migration: The displacement of Tiv people of central Nigeria in contemporary times. *International Journal of arts and Humanities Babir Dar-Ethiopia*. 5(2) S/N0.17
- Pottier, J. (1999). *Anthropology of Food: The social dynamics of food security*, Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Yecho, J. I (2006). An overview of the Tiv-Jukum Crisis. In Timothy T. Gyuse and Oga Ajene (eds.) *Conflicts in the Benue valley*, Makurdi: Benue State University Press
- Zakari, F.Z & Garba, U. (2006). Socio-economic dimension of conflict in the Benue Valley: An overview of farmers –Nomads Conflict in Adamawa Central, Adamawa State of Nigeria. In Timothy T. Gyuse and Oga Ajene (eds.) *Conflicts in the Benue valley*, Makurdi: Benue state University Press