

IMPACT OF CONFLICT BETWEEN FARMERS AND PASTORALISTS ON FOOD SECURITY IN BENUE STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the impact the impact of conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists on food security in Benue State. The study adopted the multi-stage sampling method to select three out of the twenty-three local government areas; one from each of the geo-political zones in the state. In Benue North East senatorial district Logo Local Government area was selected, Benue North West senatorial district Guma Local Government area was chosen and in Benue South senatorial district Agatu Local Government area was selected. The instruments of data collection used were questionnaires, Focused Group Discussion and key informant interview. The major findings of this study revealed that destruction of crops by the pastoralists without compensation, the mischief from both the farmers and pastoralists and rape of women are the major causes of the conflict in Benue State. As revealed in the study, a total of 933.3 hectares of farmlands were cultivated and 587.9 hectares (63%) of farmland were destroyed as a result of the conflict. This has indeed affected food availability. Thus, using Food Security Measurement Module (FSMM), the result indicates there is food insecurity in the areas that experienced this conflict. The study recommends among others the establishment of ranches, checking the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the need for massive reforestation in drought prone states in Northern Nigeria as measures of reducing crop farmers and pastoralists' conflict in Nigeria in general and Benue State in particular.

Key Words: *Crop farmers, pastoralism, food security, conflict, ranches*

Introduction

In Nigeria today, despite the fact that the agricultural sector relies on traditional tools for production, it has been estimated to be responsible for 95% of Nigeria's food requirement (Atim, 2006). With an increasing

population, the need to expand the capacity of agricultural production to feed the teeming population is very crucial. In point of fact agriculture remains the most viable economic sector that sustains human life. Indeed, (Ake 1981, p. 1) had earlier eloquently stated that:

Economic need is the primary need, so economic activity is man's primary activity. The economic need is so essential for human existence and unless man is able to meet this need, he cannot exist in the first place. Man must eat before he can pursue culture, worship or become an economist.

The above expression by Ake underscores the importance of food to human existence. In recent times, the quest to boost food production in Nigeria is threatened by conflicts that have come to be the unfortunate feature of the Nigerian society. These conflicts range from the Boko-Haram insurgency in the North-East, the ethno-religious conflicts, communal clashes and more worrisome is the conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists in several states of Nigeria. The pastoralist continued to clash with sedentary farming communities in Plateau, Ogun, Oyo, Sokoto, Nassarawa, Kaduna, Benue, Rivers, Zamfara, Bauchi, Yobe, Enugu, Cross River states and the Federal Capital Territory.

In Benue State, the conflict between farmers and pastoralist is a decade old. However, the present escalation into full blown war is a recent phenomenon. In the last few years, the conflict can be likened to the other (33) thirty-three armed conflict taking place globally (Hagher 2014). The combats are armed with sophisticated assault weapons and are determined to wreck maximum havoc. The killing of men, women, children and animals are a regular feature of the conflict.

During the last decade, the conflict started on 23rd June, 2001, when Mr. Iortim Umande, an unarmed Tiv farmer found Fulani cattle eating up his crops. When he tried to drive them out of his farm, the Fulani herdsman took out his sword and killed him (Hagher 2014). Since then, many Benue farming communities have come under attack by the herdsmen. These communities include Nyiev, Tse-Anda, Yandev, Dooga, Kpata, Lokobi, Mbagwen, Tse-Zaki, Tse-Kper, Chile, Tse-Kpoku, Sengev, Gbuku, Gbajimba, Ikpayongu, Agatu (Tsa, 2014). Many analysts of the conflict like Hagher (2014) have argued that, the farmers-pastoralists conflict in Benue State has given the impression that top ranking Fulani elites have already taken side with the Fulani herdsmen in the agenda to partition the Benue farmlands into Fulani cattle grazing reserves. Our

concern in this paper however, is to examine the effects of the conflict on food security in Benue State.

Statement of the Problem

Crop farmers and pastoralist are critical to Nigeria's food security. The pastoralists in Nigeria are made up of many ethnic groups, the largest being the Fulani consisting over 90% (Isah 2012). The pastoralists represent a significant component of the Nigerian economy. They provide over 26% of agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 10% of the nation's GDP (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017). On the other hand, Benue State which is the epicenter of the conflict is the nation's Food Basket because of its rich and diverse agricultural produce. The geo-strategic location of the state coupled with its Guinea Savannah vegetation makes it feasible to cultivate a wide range of crops. Included here are grains, rice, millet, guinea-corn, soyabeans, maize, beniseed; root crops like yams and cassava.

Crop farmers and pastoralists conflict is correlated to food security and under most circumstances depresses production and income from cash crops and livestock. This reduction in production and income has serious implication on food security with the capacity to reduce coping capacity of those depending on food resources for their livelihood. Not only has farmers and pastoralist conflicts limit production of food, it has the propensity to deny people access to food and availability of food supply.

Following a bitter rivalry between the crop farmers and pastoralists in Benue state a total of 853 people have lost their lives since June 2014. While the Fulani herdsmen claimed to have lost 214 people in addition to 3200 cows, the Tiv people reportedly killed are estimated to be 633 excluding children and women who died in ramshackled camps in 2015 (World Watch Report, 2015). In addition, the farmers in Agatu, Guma, Gwer-West, Katsina-Ala, Kwande, Logo and Makurdi local government areas of Benue state are displaced by marauding pastoralists. The worst hit of these local government areas are Guma, Gwer-West, Logo and Agatu.

The above captures the plight of both farmers and pastoralists in the conflict. The basic question is that, what is the faith of the Nigerian society when two of its major players in food security enterprise are at each other's throat? It is against this backdrop that this study interrogates the effect of pastoralists and crop farmers conflict on food security in Benue State.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

- i. To identify the causes of crop farmers and pastoralists conflict in Benue State.
- ii. To examine the impact of farmers and pastoralists conflict on food security in Benue State.

Methodology

This study adopts multi-stage sampling to select respondents. Three local government areas were selected one from each of the three senatorial districts in Benue State.

- (a) **Benue North-East senatorial district:** Logo Local Government Area: one hundred and sixty nine thousand, sixty three (169,063).
- (b) **Benue North-West senatorial district:** Guma Local Government Area: one hundred and ninety one thousand, five hundred and ninety nine (191,599).
- (c) **Benue South Senatorial District:** Agatu Local Government Area: one hundred and fifteen thousand, five hundred and ninety seven (115,597), (NPC, 2006).
Therefore, the total population of the study is Logo=169,063
Guma=191,599
Agatu=115,597
Total=476,259

From the population above, the study used Taro Yamene's formula to determine the sample size of 400 (see Appendix1). Therefore, purposive sampling technique was adopted to generate data for this research. The purposive sampling technique helped to identify individuals and locations where the data required was generated, based on respondents' knowledge and the experience that they are willing to share. This technique was utilized with an emphasis on communities in Benue State that have directly experienced pastoralists and crop farmers conflict. Three communities were used to represent each of the local governments selected, as follows:

Table 1: LGAs and Communities Targeted Key Informants Interview (KIIs) and FGDs

S/N	Name of LGA where field work was conducted	Targeted Communities	Targeted population
1.	AGATU	Aiya	Farmers, pastoralists, local chiefs, security agents
		Okokolo	
		Ocholonya	
2.	GUMA	Tse-Torkula	” ”
		Umenger	
		Yogbo	
3.	LOGO	Chembe	” ”
		Tse-Meeme	
		Gabo village	

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The study relied on questionnaires, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and interview instruments. Given the nature of the data generated, the authors employed qualitative investigation; our qualitative analysis relied on the Thematic Content Analysis (TCA) and Food Security Model. TCA generates a descriptive set of qualitative data from the interview transcripts collected. By grouping and distilling interview texts, we were able to extract a list of common themes; this revealed the common meanings and expressions from the set of respondents. The distillation facilitated direct examination of the link between crop farmers-pastoralists conflict and food security, in terms of how the conflict has impacted on this component of socio-economic development in Benue State.

Operationalization of Concepts

The following concepts were operationalized within the context of the study:

Conflict: Conflict in this study is a reference to tension between resource users, simple arguments between individuals, disputes between individuals or groups, or with the state, legal proceedings, political actions to evict certain resource users, theft, destruction of farm lands, produce and

properties, raiding of livestock, beating, killing of humans or livestock and large-scale violence between groups involving multiple killings.

Food Security: The study adopts the definition by World Food summit of 1996. According to this summit, food security exists “when all people at all times have access to sufficient safe, nutritious food to maintain healthy and active life”. This definition is adopted because it is comprehensive as it covers both physical and economic access to food that meets people’s dietary needs as well as their food preferences.

Pastoralism: This is a livestock-based production system where ruminant livestock freely graze in open grasslands.

Theoretical Framework

The study adopts the theory of eco-violence as its analytical framework. The theory of eco-violence examines the inter-linkage between environmental changes and possible conflict situation. The eco-violence theory derives its epistemological foundation from the political ecology perspective (Okoli and Atelhe 2014). In effect, the bulk of its assumptions are organically related thereto. In any case, the theory takes as a point of departure the mainstream political ecology premise in an attempt to evolve a robust analytical tradition amenable to analyzing micro issues pertaining to resource-conflict problematic. Developed by Homer-Dixon (1999, p.30), 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.

Eco-violence therefore offers insight into the nature and dynamics of the pastoralist-farmers conflict in Nigeria. In this regard, it is to be observed that conflicting actors attempt 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 (Okoli and Atelhe 2014). The manifest militant

posture of the Fulani pastoralists must be understood with reference to their individual and collective worldviews vis-à-vis group subsistence and survival; that has a lot to do with pastoralism. For the average Fulani-herdsman, pastoralism is a way of living, which is reckoned with as a mark of common heritage (Okoli and Atelhe 2014). In effect, any threat to his herd amounts to a threat, not only to his survival but also to his common destiny.

In the case of Benue State, which is the focus of this study, the situation has been accentuated by climate change. Pastoralists migrate from the far North to the central region of Nigeria in search of grazing fields and water. This is what Homer-Dixon (1999) refers to “push and pull factors.” Push factors are those unfavorable environmental resources that are unlivable while the pull factors are those areas with greater resource availability. Adogi (2013, p.7) succinctly captured this trend 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 Fulani’s and farmers. These groups are forced to find new ways to cope with the different types of conflict at once because of competition over marginal resources.

The outcome of this scenario in Benue State has been the prevailing internecine of pastoralist/farmers conflict which has so far defied all solutions. The conflict situation is likely to continue in a progressive manner due to the increasing down-south march of the Sahara desert leading to opening up of more agrarian land to grazing, which usually marks the beginning of hostile contact between the arable agriculturists and the pastoralists. Most of these rural conflicts over land and cattle have been going on over a long period, with very little attention given to them.

Discussion of Findings

1. The Causes of Conflict between Farmers and Pastoralists in Benue State

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. Mr. James Tarkigh (Informant Interview, 2015) stated that: “the Fulani’s needed the green grass for pasturing the cattle, this green grass was on land. The Tiv-farmers needed the land containing the green grass and to worsen

the matter, rice which was planted on the land was green in colour – attractive to the cattle for consumption”. The cause of the conflict between farmers and pastoralists in Benue State is over the ‘material’ needed for ‘existence’. The struggle between the two groups is because each is struggling to survive or exist and each group depends on the same material called the ‘green of the land’. Whereas the farmers depend on the ‘green crops’ that grows on the land like rice, yam, cassava etc, the Fulani herdsmen also depend on what grow on the land the ‘green’ of the land which either grows naturally –the ‘grass’ or that which is planted- rice, yams, cassava among others.

- a. We also see an immediate cause as being attributed to the large influx of herdsmen into the Benue trough/Benue valley. Statistics have shown that the influx from Nassarawa to Benue is on the increase at a rate of 3 – 4% annually and 1.5 – 2% leaves the valley every year while 0.5 – 0.8% is consumed as meat in abattoirs, in the slaughter houses (Federal Livestock Department Report 2004). By implication there is always a large percentage of livestock in the Benue valley every year. As was reported, the type of grass, the soil type that encourages and supports vegetation cover creates an enabling environment suitable for the herdsmen to desire to pasture in this valley. The number of the cattle Fulani herdsmen is thus increasing as the population of the farmers on this land.
- b. The destruction of farm crops without compensation is yet another cause of farmers and pastoralists in Logo. The destruction of crops is a constant feature of farmers and pastoralists interaction in Benue state. However, this destruction of crops were not compensated by the Fulani pastoralists and this further precipitated the conflict (Focus Group Discussion, 2015).
- c. Perception on the role of vigilantes varied widely among respondents and key informants and was highly variable. The pastoralists were opposed to vigilante groups as they alleged that the vigilantes illegally extort money from them. The worst cases of negative influence of vigilante groups were reported by pastoralists. A pastoralist argued that: “Vigilante groups are empowered by security agencies and governments to supposedly hunt bandits, but they increasingly target pastoralist groups” (KII, 2015).
- d. According to a Pastoralist (Interview, 11/2/2015), the encroachment on traditional livestock migratory routes, cultivation of traditional

grazing areas, dry season cultivation of riverine areas and valleys in Nigeria encouraged by the Federal Government of Nigeria Fadama projects, land grabs by very rich trade-political-merchant elites, political attachment to land as political tool to gain access to power has accentuated the conflicts.

- e. Another cause was that of 'mischief'. We discovered that there were several instances where 'mischief makers' had set false alarm by saying that either the Fulani pastoralists or the Tiv farmers are coming for an attack. This had caused fears in the Tiv or Fulani community and the people either the Tiv or the Fulani had to run for their dear lives and these mischief makers engage in looting and caused other mischievous actions. This is of a great concern and it has several dimensions. Mr. John Chembe (Informant Interview, 2015) went ahead to conclude that these herdsmen who caused mischief are hired herdsmen who are not committed to their work. They do this so that they will falsely accuse the Tiv people of taking their cows but in the long run they are the ones who will arrange to take those cows in connivance with other mischief makers and sell the cows or transport them to other places for sale, when they might have executed their plans they usually go back to tell their 'masters' that they were attacked in some village and some cows were lost thus setting a revenge mechanism against the people of the area. This indeed is the current trend of the causes of conflict between the farmers and herdsmen in Logo local government area and has been found to transcend to the other Local government areas too (FGD, 2014).
- f. Another cause of the conflict could be traced to the role of traditional rulers. Because the Fulani's make their camps within the Local Government it is believed they do so with permission; The Fulani pastoralists say they take permission, pay homage and royalties but the traditional rulers accept that they receive the pastoralists in their midst without collecting money from them. Since these are not official and cannot be receipted it becomes a matter, which can only be argued (FGD, 2015).

2. The Impact of the Conflict between Farmers and Pastoralists on Food Security in Benue State

A survey of the impacts of farmers and pastoralists conflicts in the three (3) LGAs have shown how cash and food crops, grains, human lives,

cattle and other properties were destroyed since the year 2010. Most inhabitants considered in our study are farmers. Their contribution to food security is large. As pastoralists (Fulani) displace farmers, it has a corresponding negative impact on farming and other associated economic activities. The degree of an attack's impact varied by season, and by the rate at which normalcy returned to communities. In Chembe (Logo LGA) farming suffered greatly due to pastoralists' attacks; farming activities were interrupted for two or three farming seasons. One of the respondents indicated that there was no farming for almost two years due to herdsmen or pastoralists attacks on their community. The fear and tension created by the attackers drove people to leave farming for a period of time. Chief John Chembe (Traditional ruler) in Chembe community (KII, 2015), stated that "on the 3rd Dec. 2014, the Fulani invaded my community and destroyed farmland and storage houses or barns (see pictorial appendix). The statistics on the impact of the conflicts on local populations have indicated that some of the sedentary agricultural communities suffered substantial loss. In Chembe community, the figures are that between 2010 and 2014, a total of one hundred and fifty six (156) hectares of land were cultivated and ninety six hectares (96) were destroyed as a result of the pastoralists and farmers conflict within the time under study. This represents 62.9% of the total hectares of land cultivated (see Appendix 11). These farmlands comprises of rice, yams, cassava, guinea-corn, maize and millet.

In Tse-Meeme (Logo LGA) the level of destruction of farmlands and storage houses was also evident. Eighty two and half (82.5) hectares were cultivated by farmers in the area, out which 20.9 hectares were destroyed as a result of the conflict. This represents about 25.3% of the total hectares cultivated (see Appendix 11). In Gabo village (Logo LGA) the level of destruction was higher than that in Tse-Meeme. The figures in the area show that one hundred and twenty-nine (129) hectares of land were cultivated, 86.5 hectares were destroyed. This represents 67.1% of the total farmlands cultivated.

In Agatu local government area the level of destruction of farmland and crops was massive. Farmers in Okokolo community cultivated about fifty-three (53) hectares of farmlands, twenty-eight (28) hectares of farmland destroyed within the time under study which is 52.8% loss. A higher magnitude of destruction of both farmlands and storage produce was recorded in Aila community. The figures show that, forty-five (45) hectares of farmland were cultivated and thirty-five (35) destroyed which is 77.8%

of the entire farmland cultivated. The level of destruction of farmland destroyed in Ocholonya community is a bit lesser compared to that of Aila community. The figures indicate that forty-six (46) hectares of farmland were cultivated, 34.5 hectares destroyed. This represents about 75% loss (see Appendix 11).

In Tse-Torkula (Guma LGA) crops of about one hundred and ninety-seven (197) hectares were cultivated, crops of one hundred and forty-nine hectares destroyed. This amount to over 75.6% loss of crops. In Umerger (Guma LGA) crops of 62 hectares were destroyed (66%). Yogbo community recorded 56.4% of crops destroyed as a result of the conflict during the time under study (see Appendix 11). As a result of this loss, people could not farm because they had no money to buy fertilizers, let alone that their houses, with all the stored grains, were burnt down (see appendix 111).

In all these areas no dead cows were seen. However, Mr. Haruna Garcus Gololo (Secretary Miyetti Allah Breeders Association Benue State Chapter) (KII, 2015), said on 20th /04/2013 alone 20 Agatu and Tiv militia invaded the compound of one Shehu Abdullahi, killing him and carted away over 200 cows. He further argued that the police confirmed to the Fulani leaders that they knew where 100 of the cows were kept and the Divisional Police Officer promised to recover and return the cows (KII, 2014). The secretary stated that about 3200 cows were either stolen or rustled in Benue state from 2010-2014.

Measurement of Food Security in Benue State arising from the Conflict

This study also employed Food Security Module to measure food security level in Benue State as a result of the crop farmers and pastoralists' conflict. This module was developed as a standard measure of food insecurity and hunger in Kenya, Tanzania and others developing countries of Asia and Africa. A criteria was a measure that was qualitative but not subjective, that is correlated with other known measures of food security and hunger. Approximately 30 food insecurity and hunger indicators questions originally tested, the final "Core Module Questionnaires contained a total question for households. These questions in food insecurity module are intended to measure underlying conditions or behaviour in the households:

- 1) Anxiety about the food supply.

- 2) Perceptions that food is inadequate in either quantity or quality.
- 3) Reduce food intake in adults.
- 4) Reduce food intake in children.

Taken together, 18 questions capture a wide range of severity of food insecurity. This model allows the population studied to be divided into four districts categories of food security. These include:

Food secure: Little or no evidence of food insecurity.

Food insecure without hunger: Food insecurity is shown by household concern about any adjustment to food management.

Food insecure with moderate hunger: Food intake is reduced and adults are experiencing hunger owing to resource constraints.

Food insecure with severe hunger: Households with children's reduced food intake to an extent that children experience hunger as a result of inadequate resources within household, while adults show evidence of more severe hunger (e.g going entire day without food). These four categories reflect increasing level of severity as households move from food insecurity and ultimately hunger. The categorization reflects a continuum of progressively more severe levels of food insecurity from food intake to the final level of reduced food intake in children. This progression suggests a "managed process" through successive stages of severity.

The eighteen-questions, core food security module (all questions answered: Often true, sometimes true, never true, I do not know/reduced. In addition to these questions, an adult in the household most knowledgeable about the issues was interviewed. In this study, we selected six households across six conflict sites in the three local government areas under study. In each household selected, 20 respondents were chosen. All together 120 respondents were administered questionnaire.

Table 2: Eighteen-Question, Core Food Security Module

S/N	Items	Often	Sometimes True	Never True	Don't Know	Total	%
1.	I worried whether my food would run out before harvest.	56(46.7%)	46(38.3%)	07(5.8%)	11(9.11%)	120	100
2.	The food that I stored just	68(56.6%)	33(27.5%)	12(10%)	7(5.8%)	120	100

	did not last till harvest year						
3.	I cannot afford to eat balance diet because some of my crops were destroyed	46(38.3%)	58(48.3%)	9(7.5%)	7(5.8%)	120	100
4.	I relied on only low cost food to feed my children because I ran out of money to buy food	50(41.7%)	54(45%)	8(6.7%)	8(6.7%)	120	100
5.	My children were not eating enough since the conflict intensified	70(58.3%)	40(33.3%)	8(6.7%)	2(1.7%)	120	100
6.	In the last 12 months, I have cut meals or skip meals because of inadequate food	59(49.1%)	34(28.3%)	20(16.7%)	7(5.8%)	120	100
7.	I skip or cut meals every day	67(55.9%)	34(28.3%)	12(10%)	7(5.8%)	120	100
8.	In the last 12 months, I have experience hunger because of poor harvest	57(47.5%)	54(45%)	6(5%)	3(2.5%)	120	100
9.	In the last 12 months, I lost weight because of	80(66.7%)	27(22.5%)	10(8.3%)	3(2.3%)	120	100

	poor meal						
10.	In the last 12 month sometime a go without for a whole day	49(40.8%)	56(46.7%)	10(8.3%)	5(4.1%)	120	100
11.	In the last 12 month I always eat less than I felt	20(16.7%)	50(41.1%)	49(40.8%)	1 (0.83%)	120	100
12.	In the last 12 months my children kip meals	21(17.5%)	78(65%)	13(10.9%)	8(6.7%)	120	100
13.	My children were not eating enough because I just could not afford enough food	69(35.8%)	32(26.7%)	17(14.1%)	2(1.7%)	120	100
14.	I could not feed my children a balanced meals because I could not afford enough food	43(35.8%)	72(60%)	4(3.3%)	2(1.7%)	120	100
15.	In last 12 months, was your child/children ever hungry but you just could not afford more food	51(42.5%)	38(31.7%)	16(13.33%)	5(4.1%)	120	100
16.	In the last 12 months, my	80(66.7%)	15(12.5%)	3(2.5%)	2(1.7%)	120	100

	children long for a whole day without meal						
17.	There is hike in the price for food stuffs.	70(58.3%)	32(26.7%)	16(13.3%)	2(1.7%)	120	100
18.	Sometimes my children skip meals for days	32(26.7%)	67(55.8%)	20(16.7%)	1(0.8%)	120	100

Source: Field work, 2017

The table above present results on the categories of food security/insecurity is bounded by threshold levels on the severity that identifies points of transition from one category to another. As shown in the table, the first threshold points divide food secure from food insecure households. Answering often true and sometimes true to the first two questions is not sufficient to classify a household as food insecure. In the table, about 85% of the respondents answered often and sometimes true to the first question, while 84.1% have answered often and sometimes true. This does not imply that there is food insecurity in the household. It is only when the first two questions are combined with an indication that the household has also experienced disruption of normal eating pattern (e.g. cannot eat balanced meals) because of insufficient resources that the household is deemed food insecure. This second category of questions indicates that the cutoff point between food insecure without the experience of hunger and insecure with moderate hunger is identified by the inability of households to economize food budgets any further without adults reducing food intake or cutting meals.

However, on the third category of question; the respondents view shows that; 58.3%, 49.1%, 55.9% and 47.5% answered often true while 33.3%, 28.3%, 28.3% and 45% answered sometimes true. The results imply that there is hunger in the households of respondents which is characterized by reduced food with severe hunger, the results reveal that 57.5%; 60% and 42.5% of respondents answered often while 32%, 60% and 31% answered sometimes true to the questions. The results show that there is severe hunger and food insecurity in the affected areas. This severe hunger is

characterized by reduced food intake and hunger in children and more severe hunger in adults.

The results in the table above indicate that there is severe hunger and food insecurity in the households investigated. Many households have reduced food intake by both children and adults as a result of unavailability of food. This violates the two cardinals of food security, the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food and an assured ability to acquire acceptable ways that is without resorting to emergency food supplies, stealing or other coping strategies.

Summary of Findings

This paper examined the impact of the conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists on food security in Benue state. The following are the summary of the findings of the study:

- i. The conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists in Benue State is caused by material needed for existence like land, pastures and water. Even though ethnicity and religious factors are use for the mobilization of resources and supports.
- ii. A total of 933.5 hectares of farmland were cultivated in six conflict sites in the three local government areas investigated and 587.9 (63%) hectares of crop were destroyed during the period under investigation.
- iii. Using Food Security Module, the result indicates that there is severe food insecurity in Benue State. Many households have reduced food intake by both children and adults as a result of unavailability of food. This violates the cardinal objectives of food security, the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food and an assured ability to acquire acceptable ways- without resorting to emergency food supplies, stealing or other coping strategies.
- iv. About 3200 cows were either killed or rustled in Benue state from 2010-2014.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists has resulted in food insecurity. Storage houses in the affected communities were destroyed during conflict leading to the destruction of seedlings that would have been planted in the next farming season. Farmers in the affected areas were displaced and took refuge in Internally Displaced Persons camps, leaving

their farms to be over grown with weeds. In light of the above findings and conclusion, this study recommends the following;

- i. Government should play active role by way of legislation to restrict movement of pastoralists and domestic animals and prevent these animals from causing destruction to food crops. Through such legislations animal's diseases like rider-pest, viruses can be prevented. This will also reduce the chance of endangering these animals by human thereby reducing conflict zones in the process.
- ii. The campaign for reforestation that is ongoing in all parts of Nigeria particularly in the drought prone areas of North East Nigeria needs to be boosted. When this is done, it will create a lasting solution to the problem of southwards movement of the pastoralists, which usually spark off a number of violent conflict in that area, they would be encouraged to sit tight on a particular land hence the vegetation remains luxuriant to support their livestock.
- iii. The government and various stakeholders should not only stop conflicts whenever they arise, but also to put a permanent and sustainable structure to address it. In this case the strengthening of local indigenous existing institutions managing conflicts were identified in this study. These are: social, religious, political, judicial and economic, which are organized on the basis of traditional roles and systems of authority, legitimized in family, chieftaincy, village council, and native court system as the case may be.
- iv. Establishment of ranches in pastoralist's home states: This should be accompanied with necessary infrastructural facilities such as water, nomadic schools, veterinary and human medical services, among others.
- v. The traditional rulers in conjunction with all the stakeholders at the village level to initiate and maintain routine or annual meetings in which the farmers would be reminded of the importance of completing their farming activities on time in order to avoid conflict between the farmers and herders in the area.

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APPENDIX 1

The sample size of this study was determined using Taro Yamene's formula (1967) thus:

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

$$N = 476259, \quad n = 476259, \quad e = 0.05$$

$$n = \frac{476259}{1+476259(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{476259}{1+476259 \times 0.05 \times 0.05}$$

$$n = \frac{476259}{1+476259 \times 0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{476259}{476260 \times 0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{476259}{1190.65}$$

$$n = 399.98$$

$$n = 400$$

APPENDIX 11

Farmland Destroyed by Fulani Pastoralists in the Study Areas From 2010-2014

	LOGO LGA	FARM- LANDS OWNED IN ACRES.	CROPS DESTROYED IN HECTARES	% OF CROPS DESTROYED	SEX
	Chembe community				
1.		12	9	75	M
2.		17	12	70.5	M
3.		28	20	71.24	M
4.		16	12	75	M
5.		9	3	33.33	M
6.		7	4	57.1	F
7.		12	10	83.33	M
8.		12	7	58.33	M
9.		13	9	69.2	M
10.		19	7	36.9	M
11.		11	5	45.45	F
	Total	156	98	62.9	M =9; F=2
	Tse-Meeme				
1		7.5	2	26.7	M
2		6	2	33.33	M
3.		7	2.5	35.7	M
4.		8	3	37.5	M
5		4	1.5	37.5	F
6.		9	1.2	13.33	M
7		12	3.5	29.1	M
8		23	4.5	19.6	M
9.		6	1.2	20	F
	Total	82.5	20.9	215.26 = 25.33	M =7; F=2
	Gabo Village				
1.		9	3		F
2.		6	2.5	33.33	M
3.		7	4	57.1	M
4.		12	7	58.33	M
5.		14	5	35.5	M
6.		19	12	63.1	M
7.		6	2	33.33	M
8		22	19	86.3	M
9.		12	7	58.33	M

10		10	5	50	F
11.		12	8	66.6	F
	Total	129	86.5	541.92 = 67.05	F =3; M=8
	AGATU LGA				
	Okokolo Community				
1.		7	5	71.42	M
2.		9	6	66.7	M
3.		5	2	40	M
4.		6	2	33.33	M
5.		4	1	25	F
6.		10	5	50	M
7		12	7	58.33	M
	Total	53	28	344.78 = 52.8	M=6; F=1
	Aila Community				
1		4	2	50	M
2.		3	3	100	M
3.		3	3	100	F
4.		5	2	40	M
5.		7	6	85.7	M
6.		8	6	75	M
7		8	5	62.5	M
8		3	1	33.33	F
9.		6	5	83.33	M
	Total	45	35	629.86 =77.8	F =2; M=7
	Ocholonya				
1.		7	4	57.1	M
2.		3	2	66.7	M
3.		6	4.5	75	M
4.		4	1.5	37.5	F
5.		4	2	50	F
6.		7	5	71	F
7.		9	3	33.33	M
8		6	4	66.7	M
	Total	46	34.5	457.33 = 75	M=5; F=3
	GUMA LGA				
	Tse-Torkula				
1.		9	5	55.5	M
2.		12	10	83.33	M

3.		20	14	70	M
4.		12	9	75	M
5.		15	12	80	M
6.		15	10	66.7	M
7.		10	5	50	F
8.		7	3	42.85	F
9.		9	5	55.6	F
10.		24	21	87.5	M
11.		22	20	90.9	M
12.		26	21	80.7	M
13.		16	14	87.5	M
	Total	197	149	893.68 = 75.6	M =10; F=3
	Umenger Village				
1		12	8		M
2		16	9		M
3.		10	6	60	M
4.		9	5	55.5	M
5		6	2.5	41.7	M
6		3	1.5	50	F
7		5	4	80	F
8.		9	6	66.7	M
9.		24	20	83.33	M
	Total	94	62	437.23 = 66	M =7; F=2
	Yogbo				
1.		10	5	50	M
2.		12	7	58.33	M
3.		18	8	44.44	M
4.		16	10	62.5	M
5.		6	3.5	58.33	M
6.		5	2.5	50	M
7.		20	13	65	M
8.		3	2	66.7	F
9		4	1	25	F
10		9	7	77.8	F
11.		16	9	56.2	M
12.		12	6	50	M
	Total	131	74	664.3 = 56.4	M =9; F=3

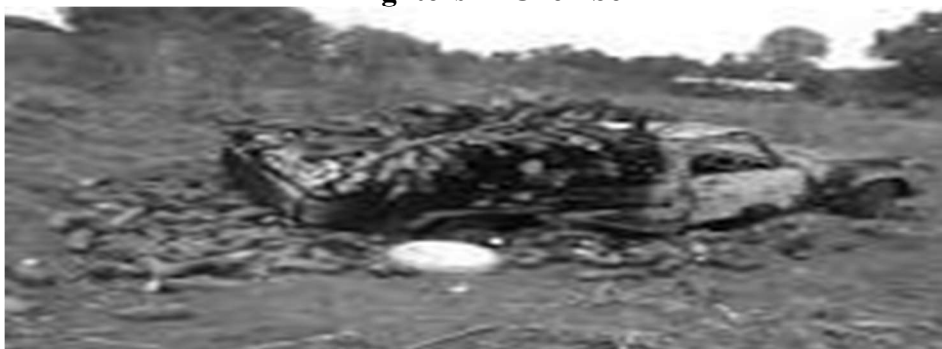
Source: Feedback from FGDs and KIIs.

PICTORIAL APPENDIX 111

Yam Seedling Destroyed in Tse-Meeme Logo LGA



A pickup van conveying yams out of conflict area destroyed by Fulani Fighters in Chembe



Yam Seedlings burn down in Yogbo (Guma LGA)

