

Fulani herdsmen/farmers conflict and the challenges of food security in the middle belt region of Nigeria

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Abstract

The agriculture sector, the backbone of an economy, provides the basic ingredients to mankind and raw material for industrialization. It plays a strategic role in the process of economic development and growth. Leading industrialized countries of today were once predominantly agricultural economies and still dominate in agriculture. The agricultural sector contributes a major proportion of the national income and caters to a large workforce segment. However, one of the biggest security challenges in Nigeria lately is the expanding clashes between farmers and herders. Today, the conflict has spread over several regions in Nigeria and the Middle-Belt-Region specifically. It is against this foundation that this research is carried out to inspect how conflicts between farmers and herders influence food production, food accessibility, food stability, and food usage in the Middle Belt. The study is based on selected secondary sources and findings from the field research conducted in the Middle Belt region such as Benue, Taraba, Adamawa, Bauchi, Nasarawa, etc. The qualitative research techniques involved in-depth interviews with local people and direct observation. This study observes that the food insecurity in this region is driven by the constant clash between the farmers and herdsman, which have inflicted fear of going to cultivate their farmland in the lives of these rural farmers, consequently leading to shortages in food production in the region.

Keywords:

Farmers; Herdsman; Conflict; Food Security; Middle Belt.

1. INTRODUCTION

Peace is one of the prerequisites for development to thrive in any country of the world as lack of the former will definitely undermine the latter. Peace is the absence of conflict or war and the presence of justice, law, and order in a society or organization (Mbaeze, 2018; Offiong, 2019). Available evidence shows that Herders and farmers have co-existed from time immemorial in a relatively peaceful relationship although, there have been pockets of disputes but were very minute to be spotted by history. Subsistence farming and small surplus production were in vogue as herders and farmers lived in mutual relationships. Both groups exchanged animal products for gains and vice versa (Wilson 1984).

However, the advent of colonialism revolutionized the whole system of interaction between herders and farmers, directly impacting the social and physical landscapes (Undiyaundeye, 2011; Okoi, 2021). This included the introduction of Land Use Acts. It undermined the cooperative system and reduced the compatibility of the groups in question. The situation further deteriorated in the post-independence period as urbanization, demographic pressure, increased influence of a global market economy, decreased available pastureland, and increased competition for natural resources. The competition over the scarce resources (land) further developed into a bitter rivalry between the two groups as witnessed since the inception of Nigeria's First Republic in 1963 when we started witnessing a high spate of conflict between the two groups, which has metamorphosed into recurring clashes, mass killings, displacement of individuals and destruction of lives and property and by extension impacted negatively on the food security of the nation (Undiyaundeye, 2012; Betiang *et al.*, 2018; Andong *et al.*, 2019). However, it is these challenges that this paper intends to assess and probably suggest ways through which they could be properly addressed.

At present, greater parts of the Middle Belt region in central Nigeria – an area which roughly incorporates the states of Adamawa, Kwara, Bauchi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Taraba, The Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), as well as the Southern parts of Gombe, Borno, Kebbi, Yobe, and Kaduna states are experiencing the violent conflict between herders and farmers. This conflict has led to the loss of lives and the destruction of properties. These series of violence have likewise displaced thousands of people and led to the proliferation of exigency camps for Internally Displaced Persons (refugees) in some specified areas.

This conflict which has constituted a major internal threat to Nigeria's food security, primarily stems from a rising dispute over grazing areas for herdsman cattle. From 2017 when the farmers/herdsman clash took the wave, over 70% of farmers within the described region have been displaced from effectively carrying out farming activities to feed the nation (Thelma, 2001). The rising competition turned conflict between the two agrarian land users has in recent times established a high eventuality to complicate the nation's food survival security. Food security is a condition related to the force of food and the existent's access to it. In the course of this conflict, growers have at certain times have taken up munitions to fight the attack from the Fulani herders, claiming to do so in tone-defense.

Though there's a dearth of quantitative evaluation of the disastrous attacks, accessible statistics have it that between June 2015 and December 2016, a total death risk of 65 persons in further than 24 separate attacks. It was also reported that an estimate of 50 persons was killed in Nasarawa-Egor (Nasarawa State) and Agatu/ Logo (Benue State) on April 23, 2017. The attack caused by the Fulani herdsman, apart from the loss of lives, has also led to the destruction of arable farmland and properties worth several billions of naira. The above scenario has a dire consequence in the regions attacked

in particular and Nigeria in general (Damba, 2010; Ekpo & Offiong, 2020). Besides the property destroyed, economic life in these regions is automatically grounded. The people are no longer free to go about their economic, social, and political activities for fear of being killed. This is made worst as several thousands of people have migrated swiftly to other parts of Nigeria. A major problem posed by the Fulani herders and farmers crisis is that farming activities in the affected areas have been put to a halt. This, in turn, affects food production, which constitutes a major threat to food security in the affected areas in particular and Nigeria in general. Farmers within these regions find it difficult to engage in farming activities that bring about food shortages in the market with its attendant effect of an increase in prices of commodities.

The continued intermittent clashes coupled with almost lack of capacity by the Nigerian government in addressing the herders-farmers conflict in Nigeria may soon degenerate into political instability, adversely undermine the economic growth of the country, and could ultimately lead to a total breakdown of law and order and equally disrupt and threaten the sustainability of agricultural and pastoral production in Nigeria. Hence, the increasing spate of killings, destruction of lives and property calls for an urgent examination of the remote and immediate cause(s) of the crisis, the implication (s) on food security in Nigeria as a country, and how the conflict can permanently be resolved as negligence could make the conflict escalate into full-blown warfare or total breakdown of law and order in the country.

Herders-farmers conflict is one of the most crucial problems that have bedeviled Nigeria at the moment. The herders-farmers conflict is a national issue that needs to be tackled with every sense of seriousness. The conflict between the two groups is not just restricted to any particular state or geo-political zone. Rather, it is an issue that poses a serious threat to all parts of the country and its unity.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF HERDSMEN/ FARMERS CONFLICT IN NIGERIA

Conflict in Nigeria manifests in different dimensions and has been on the increase since after the Nigerian civil war of 1967-1970 (Aliyu 2004). Resource control and divergent value systems in the country are responsible for these frequent conflicts. The population of Nigeria as of the 1960s was estimated to be around 48 million, with arable lands more than enough to accommodate both herders and farmers. Today, the population has soared to 194,502,490 in 2018 based on the United Nations estimate (United Nations Watch 2018). It is apt to note that as the landmass remained the same over the years, the population kept increasing, and as a result, there was an increase in the demand for land, water, forest products, and grazing land within the territories inhabited by Fulani and farmers (Murtala 2013). Empty spaces were either earmarked for building houses or for farming activities, and the struggle for resources became more intense. The expansion and struggle for resource control brought about the clashes between herders and farmers. Access to various limited resources, including grassland, markets, water spots for animals, rival claims to land, government policies, the leadership of political parties, etc., gave rise to conflicts (Oтите & Albert 1999). This was corroborated in the words of John (2016) as thus:

Population growth, environmental degradation, inequitable access to resources, and rapid resource depletion cumulatively worsen the severity and scope of poverty within and across communities and countries, especially in the developing world. There tend to deepen socio-economic deprivation in society. These deprivations easily grow and develop into grievances, social bitterness, increasing rebellion, and social unrest, thereby culminating in temporal or sustained violence and conflict (John, 2016).

However, the herders-farmers conflict in Nigeria has taken a multifaceted dimension. It grows from an ordinary conflict or misunderstanding between the herders and farmers to an ethnopolitical, social and religious conflict threatening the country's unity and security as the spread of this conflict into several states in Nigeria has further strained the fragile nature of relations across the different ethnic, regional and religious groups in the country.

According to Tonah (2006), the herders-farmers differences are seen as resources conflict and sometimes represented as an ethnic conflict between the two groups. Since herders and farmers groups have different values, customs, physical and cultural characteristics, the dispute between them is frequently characterized as ethnic conflict. The conflict has posed a serious national problem for Nigeria's unity as the conflict claimed an estimated death of 168 in January 2018 alone, according to an Amnesty report published on January 30, 2018. In 2017, an estimated death of 549 was recorded across 14 states of the federation as thousands of people were either displaced or maimed while over 2,500 lives were lost in 2016 (Amnesty International 2018).

The indigenes-settlers issue is a factor that has contributed to the herders-farmers conflict as witnessed in Jos - Plateau State, Nigeria. This conflict, however, revolves mainly around resource control such as land ownership. It is basically between the Berom, one of the largest tribes, and the Hausa migrants. This conflict has transcended into a religious conflict where the Berom Christian indigenes are in continuous antagonism with their Muslim Hausa settlers, hence the battle for dominance. The Berom people are predominantly farmers, while the Hausa Fulani are predominantly pastoralists. The Muslim Hausa settlers' fear of being displaced in their indigenous land led to discrimination and resentments against the Hausa settlers. This overtime resulted in pockets of conflicts and ultimately escalated into conflict marked by killings and reprisal killings regularly. The massacre of Agatu indigenes in Benue state by Fulani herders is not bereft of ethnic and religious undertones (Okeke, 2017). Beyond the clashes between the Berom Christian indigenes and the Hausa Muslim settlers, and the Tiv community versus the Fulani herders in Benue state, the advancement of the Fulani herders down to the South has been perceived by the Southern Christians as a deliberate attempt to Islamize the southern part of the country. Okeke further noted that the gradual southwards expansion of Hausa Fulani is responsible for the ongoing ethno-religious conflict in the central states of Nigeria, but to a greater extent in Plateau, Nasarawa, and Benue states.

In line with the above assertion, it is argued that the herders are mere servants of the real cattle owners. In line with this school of thought, Affrey (2014) stated that "the Fulani elite own a large proportion of the cattle reared by Fulani herders. The real cattle owners belong to the upper-class citizens from the northern extracts and have the financial muscle to arm these herders against any perceived obstacle against their interest". This explains why some herders are seen

with AK 47 and other sophisticated weapons which ordinarily they cannot afford to purchase. This was further buttressed by Ephraim (2014) as this, "the herdsmen often own sophisticated weapons". The rationale behind this is to protect their interest by clearing everything that poses a threat to them. This also explains why there are often high casualties, especially on the part of farmers, each time this conflict occurs.

3. CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

3.1 Fulani

The "Fula" natives are known as "Fulani" in the Hausa language, are a mass population widely dispersed and culturally diverse in all parts of Africa, but predominant in West Africa. The Fulani's generally speak the Fula language. A significant number of them are nomadic, herding cattle, goats, and sheep across vast dry grasslands of their environments. They are often isolated from their host communities, and they are currently known as world's largest pastoral nomadic group (Eyekpimi, 2016). They are spread over numerous countries of Africa. They are mainly found in West Africa, the Northern parts of Central Africa, also in Sudan and Egypt. The main Fulani sub-groups in Nigeria are: Fulbe Adamawa, Fulbe Sokoto, Fulbe Mbororo, Fulbe Gombe, and the Fulbe Borgu (Eyekpini, 2016).

3.2 Herder(s)

Cambridge dictionary conceptualized a herder as a man who takes care of a large group of animals of the same type. A herder could further be referred to as a person who takes care of a herd of cattle or a flock of sheep, especially in an open field. It further implies a breeder or custodian of cattle or flock of sheep.

3.3 Farmer(s)

A farmer is an individual who engages in agriculture. The term usually applies to people who do some combination of raising field crops, vineyards, orchards, poultry, or any other livestock (Olusola 2013). According to Mbaeze (2018), farmers are people who engage in agricultural activities such as farming with the primary objectives of producing food and other cash crops either for subsistence consumption or for public consumption. However, in its simplest term, a farmer refers to a person who owns or takes care of a farm.

3.4 Conflict

This is a form of strife that occurs between two or more persons or groups as a result of disagreement. It is a contest or struggle between people with opposing ideas, needs, beliefs, goals and values (Emily & Thomas 2007). Musa (2014) views conflict as a struggle between parties over desirable value. To him, conflict is simply a struggle over values or claim to status and scarce resources in which the aim of conflicting parties is not only to gain the desired value but also to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals. One defining element of conflict is the presence of two or more actors struggling to secure a thing adjudged to be valuable of which gained by any actor, amount to as a loss or deprivation to the other actor.

Conflict can also be seen as some form of discord arising within a group when the beliefs or actions of one or more members are either unacceptable or resisted by one or more members of another group. It is important to know that conflict can arise between members of the same group; this is known as intra-group conflict. It can also occur between members of two or more groups; this is called interpersonal group conflict.

3.5 Food

Food is defined by the American Heritage Dictionary as "material, usually of plant or animal origin that contains or consist of essential body nutrients, such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamin, or mineral, and is ingested and assimilated by an organism to produce energy, stimulate growth, and maintain life". Food is a substance taken in to maintain life and growth (Brandford & Thompson 1992). Food can also be seen as something that nourishes, sustains and supplies.

3.6 Food Security

Unquestionably, when it comes to food security, there are a plethora of definitions in the literature. Food security is permanent access to sufficient food for a normal and healthy life in society, and it is also accessible by all people at all times to sufficient food for active, healthy life (Olusola 2013).

According to Vizard (2011), "food security can be defined as (the condition) when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food (to meet) their dietary needs and food performance for an active and healthy life". It thus encompasses the availability of food, people's access to food and their use of food, as well as the stability of all three components. This definition includes the qualitative dimensions of safety and nutrition, linking food security to people's energy, protein and nutrient needs, life activity, pregnancy, and growth (UNHLPF 2010). The phrase "food security" was defined with an emphasis on the word "supply". Food security is thus, the availability of world food supplies of basic foodstuff, to sustain a steady increase of food consumption and to balance fluctuations in food production prices (United Nations Bulletin 2013).

4. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In search of an appropriate theoretical underpinning for this paper, the conflict theory is considered suitable. Conflict theory of the society was a reaction to the consensus or functionalist approach to the sociological explanation of the social phenomenon. Proponents of conflict perspective include Karl Marx, George Simmel, Ralf Dahrendorf, Lewis Coser, and

Lockwood David. These theorists maintain that society and social change can only be explained in terms of perpetual conflict. That is, conflict is inevitable in any human society as long as the change is a constant phenomenon (Offiong, 2016).

The conflict between the Fulani Herdsmen and Farmers inside the Middle Belt district of Nigeria is best portrayed with the utilization of conflict theory. The hypothesis considers the public activity to be a rivalry and spotlights the conveyance of assets and power that are not equally invested ordinarily. Defenders of the hypothesis view society as a get-together of individuals of different necessities and interests with restricted assets to address their issues. Karl Marx is viewed as the major player for conflict theory. Conflict theory views battles for power and control in the public arena as a significant causal variable of contention. Conflict happens when at least two actors go against one another in social interactions, equally applying social powers to accomplish scant or incongruent objectives and keep the rival from achieving them. The mission for strength and power turns into a currency rather than an agreement. In view of this reason, the public authority at the Local, State, and Federal levels has not had the option to address the contending issues among herders and ranchers or help them arrive at some agreement, particularly inside the Middle Belt district of the country. A brief history of the crises reveals that the movement of Fulani herdsmen and succeeding clashes with farmers and host communities in modern times has heightened in Nigeria, particularly in the Middle Belt region. The driving force of the clashes in the competition for available resources especially grazing land.

Consequently, grazing reserves that were under a neglected agricultural sector could not be sustained. It has received small or no attention from the succeeding administration. As a fallback, Herdsmen began to resort back to their traditional and seasonal grazing routes which had been interfered with or interrupted by urbanization, industrialization, demographics, and other natural factors. These factors have also led to clashes and conflict with farmers and host communities in the Middle Belt region. This conflict has been on the increase in recent times and now constitutes one of the major threats to Nigeria's food security.

5. UNDERSTANDING HERDERS/FARMERS CONFLICT

Many reactions have been attributed to the herders-farmers conflict in Nigeria. However, there seems to be no agreement among both groups on the causes of their mutual conflict. While farmers cite the destruction of crops by cattle and other property by herdsmen as the main direct causes for the conflicts, burning of rangelands and blockage of stock routes and water points by crop encroachment are direct reasons from the point of view of the herdsmen (Haan 2002). These conflicts have become pervasive to the extent that most states in Nigeria have an unresolved conflict associated with cattle grazing. The nomadic farmers in Nigeria practice transhumance to avoid overgrazing the limited available land or reduce the herd size during the dry season when pasture and water are scarce on the highlands. So, the animals are reared in the river valleys, and herders-farmers conflicts become intensified during this period because the farmers cultivate vegetables in such areas where the herders also intend to graze. Furthermore, the expansion of riverine and valley-bottom cultivation beginning from the 1980s has made the herders and farmers compete directly for access to riverbanks, resulting in conflict between the two groups.

According to Ahmadu and Ayuba (2018), violent attack by Fulani Herdsmen on farmers and innocent citizens in Nigeria in the recent past has taken more sophisticated dimensions with the use of new types of weapons and communication devices. To buttress this point, Fasina and Omojola (2014) also opined that conflicts resulting from grazing problems accounted for more than 35% of reported clashes from 1990 to date in the country. Thus, the destruction of several lives and property has further aggravated the violence. In consequence, the agrarian communities have resorted to self-defense through local vigilante groups.

In his view, Tonah (2006) saw that the elements liable for the expanding herders-farmers crisis incorporate the southward movement of pastoral herds into humid and sub-humid zones promoted by the successful control of the menace posed by diseases, the far-reaching accessibility of veterinary medication, and the extension of farming activities into regions that up until recently filled in as pastureland. Similarly, Akpaki (2002) in his opinion noted that every farming system such as nomadic cattle herding has a boundary that makes up the environment. The boundary represents the limit in the larger system. Farmers are increasingly competing with nomadic herders for farmland, pasture, water, trees, and use of rangeland in general. This is further elucidated in the words of Musa *et al.*, (2014) as thus: "so many factors cause conflict between herdsmen and farmers in the area. Most of these factors include: the destruction of crops/farmland, the role of traditional rulers, cattle theft by host communities. Research completed by the Misereor Dialog and Partnership Service from 2016-2017, which covered the North Central, Northwest, and South West has accused population growth, naira devaluation, among others as components behind herders/farmers conflict. The report uncovered that population development was found as one of the vital reasons for the contention, demanding that there was a similarly sped up request on nature-based human survival needs.

The research noted that naira devaluation informed expensive food imports, arguing that the devaluation forced the Nigerian government to encourage local agricultural production, thereby rising pressure on the available space. It further exposed that the designation of land, according to its future requirements and sustainability in the context of an over-arching land use plan, has not been implemented in rural areas. However, some measures are being taken to mitigate these seemingly intractable conflicts by the government at various levels over the years. For instance, Nigeria has 415 designated grazing reserves throughout the country, while herders-farmers reconciliatory committees in most conflict-prone states have been set up to control resource-based conflicts among farmers and pastoralists. The Nigerian government also continues to carve out new stock routes for herdsmen (Adelakum, Aderogbangba & Akinbile 2016). Notwithstanding all these, the conflict continued unabated and is on the rise and it is fast spreading to different parts of the country.

6. IMPACT OF HERDSMEN/FARMERS CONFLICT ON FOOD SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE BELT REGION OF NIGERIA

The major domestic threat to the problem of Nigeria's food security is the herders-farmers dispute over grazing areas for herdsman cattle. From 2017 when the herdsman-farmers clashes took to the wave, over 70% of farmers have been displaced from effectively carrying out farming activities to feed the country. Crisis is unavoidable in a multi-lingual, cultural, and religious community such as Nigeria (Ellah & Otor, 2014; Ellah, 2014; Olufu & Offiong, 2017). However, violent conflicts and crisis in Nigeria like other parts of the world has created a rift in human relations, caused a serious threat to food security, among many other effects. The herders-farmers conflict has hindered farmers from peacefully carrying out farming activities. The fact that these conflicts create a reduction in the quality and quantity of food production simply indicated the high level of food insecurity in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria with its negative repercussion. Food insecurity negatively affects the growth rate of the nation's economy as investors have become more rigid in making investments in affected areas due to the crisis, and this has increased food importation which reduces the value of the nation's currency.

Nigeria blessed with a large amount of arable agricultural farmlands in all the states of the federation is strongly affected by this threat as aside from the loss of lives, the vast expanse of arable land is left uncultivated due to the insecurity of the farmers. Middle Belt states like Benue (Food Basket of the Nation), Kogi, Taraba, Plateau, Adamawa, Kaduna, Kebbi, Bauchi, and Gombe states, including Abuja traditionally known for farming and with abundance in the food supply are faced with the struggle to feed its population and Nigeria. In Nigeria, the agricultural sector plays a strategic role in economic development, making significant contributions to economic prosperity and providing basic raw materials for industries and household consumption. The sector employs approximately two-third of the total labor force and contributes over 40% of the GDP. The greater part of the country is faced with acute food insecurity requires an urgent lifesaving response and livelihood protection to reduce the possibility of famine in the affected areas across the country. When Nigerian farmers cannot plant and harvest crops peacefully, the price of commodities in the markets will greatly increase and encourage importation to supply the shortages, further discouraging the participation of citizens in agriculture (United Nations 2015).

The additions recorded in the agrarian area of the Nigerian economy, particularly in the space of food creation, may experience a genuine misfortune because of the adverse consequences of the herdsman-farmers conflict (Awogbade, 1987). While a couple has embraced the more sedentary type of animal husbandry, the expanding conflicts among herders and farmers assume that grazing is a significant method for animal raising in Nigeria. The sedentary type of animal husbandry additionally ends up being more costly, hard to make do, and inefficient for the expanding populace like Nigeria. Thus, it is vital to take note that these struggles straightforwardly affect the lives and jobs of those involved. They likewise disturb and compromise the manageability of peaceful creation and horticulture in Nigeria (Apenda, 2016). These conflicts support circles of outrageous destitution and hunger, food security, and agricultural development (Ekpenyong *et al.*, 2017; Ekpenyong *et al.*, 2018).

Due to the problem of insecurity in Nigeria over the past years, fuelled by lack of stable supply and rising food prices, the prices of essential commodities and food production have skyrocketed, making them unaffordable to the common man. Today, soaring food prices in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria are being reported with adverse impacts on household budgets. Mimiko (2016) noted that herdsman/farmers' conflicts are a challenge to food security. Food security has become a matter of global concern. It has become an especially prominent issue in the governance context in recent years. Nigeria with its huge endowed natural and human resources is not spared. It is an indispensable prerequisite for the survival of mankind and its economic activities including food production. Not only that, but it has also remained one of the defining challenges of our time. The good situation in Nigeria remains fragile, which is reflected through a high proportion of the underfed population and worrying levels in the prevalence of acute malnutrition. Thus, the recurring issue of clashes between Fulani herd and farmers in the Middle Belt region remains a major threat to the nation's food security. This perennial feud could have serious implications for food security in the region. Herders/farmers conflict has remained the most preponderant resource-use conflict not only in the middle belt region of Nigeria but in Nigeria as a whole. The conflicts have demonstrated a high potential to exacerbate the insecurity of food security in Nigeria. The herders-farmers conflict has led to the wanton destruction of material resources. It has also facilitated land degradation as conflict often destroys environmental, physical, human, and social capital, thereby altering available sustainable national development and improving food security in Nigeria.

7. CONCLUSION

The implication of herders and farmers' conflict on Nigeria's food security cannot be over-emphasized. This is because the conflict between herders and farmers over the use of agricultural land is still pervasive and portends grave consequences for Nigeria. The frustration and aggression from the herdsman and farmers respectively have escalated the conflicts in Nigeria, making conflict theory more relevant to this study. It is important to note that the conflicts had far-reaching effects on food security in Nigeria. The herdsman need land for grazing purposes, but they are too aggressive and usually do not totally obey pastoral routes and land that had been designated for them.

If the enabling environment is created for the peasant farmers to operate, food security can be achieved in Nigeria. In Nigeria, herders-farmers conflicts have for far too long and the various strategies adopted by both groups have little or no progress in dousing the tide and impacts of the conflict are having considerable effects on food security. The perennial conflict has been a bane of food security in Nigeria. This paper, therefore, recommends as follows:

- The government should provide demarcated grazing reserves and cattle routes accompanied by necessary infrastructural facilities such as water, nomadic schools, veterinary and human medical services.
- The federal and state government should come up with anti-grazing bills to curb the menace of herdsmen conflicts as it is applicable in different parts of the world.
- The government can also work on desert encroachment as a phenomenon that has posed a serious threat thereby forcing most herdsmen to move southwards. This situation is worsened by the problem of global warming.
- The government should embark on an enlightenment campaign by exposing the people to the dangers of the herders-farmers conflict in Nigeria. There is also the need for viable NGOs on herders-farmers conflict management, education, prevention, and amelioration.
- Traditional methods of conflict resolution can be combined with governments' efforts at addressing the problem because people mostly affected by conflict reside in rural areas.
- There is a need for an alternative proposal for managing the herder-farmers conflict in a plural society like Nigeria, which emphasizes prevention strategies through good governance.
- There should be arrest and prosecution of murderers and adequate compensation for the victims as it will ensure justice in society and also restore people's confidence in the institution of governance.
- Strict border control by Nigerian security to make sure that foreigners do not invade the country in the name of herdsmen.

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