

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF FARMERS-HERDERS CONFLICT IN THE NORTHERN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF PLATEAU STATE

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Abstract

This paper basically focuses on farmers-herders conflict in the northern local governments of Plateau State. Farmer is a person who owns, works on or operates an agricultural enterprise, either commercially or to sustain himself or his family. Herders or pastoralists can be seen as a form of nomadism in which livestock are herded in order to identify fresh pastures on which to graze. Conflicts is a disagreement between two or more people, communities or nations based on certain factors which may be social, ethnic, cultural, economic, political, and religious or a combination of two or more factors. The paper further revealed the concept of Conflict, reconciliation causes of farmers-herdsmen conflicts, effects of crop farmers and cattle herders' conflict, conflict management strategies and mechanisms employed by institutions in managing farmer-herder conflicts. The study concluded that the causes of farmers-herders conflicts include: encroachment into farm-field, cattle rustling, destruction of crops by herdsmen, and seasonal southward migration of herdsmen, marginalization, increase in population growth among others. The effect of farmers-herders conflict can be seen on physical structures, economic and on human beings leaving behind negative consequences. Based on these, the study recommended among others that herders and farmers should form more unions and alliances to express their interests and speak collectively. By seeking redress from the appropriate authority if a conflict occurred, this might minimize the incidence of "jungle justice." Also, the Traditional rulers and the herders' well-known Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders

Association (MACBAN) should be fully involved in sensitization of their members, in which they place their confidence.

Keywords: Causes, Conflict, Effects, Farmer, Herder, Reconciliation.

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, Nigeria has been bedevilled with insecurity to the extent that the world saw Nigeria as a violent nation and this has destroyed the reputation of Nigerians across the world. There have been several cases of farmers-herdsmen conflicts across various states and locations in Nigeria. Frequent attacks on the farmers and citizens of Nigeria by the herdsmen is terribly alarming (Nadabo, 2013). These conflicts became so threatening on the country's national integration, such that the hitherto peaceful relationship between farmers and herdsmen across various communities' in Nigeria degenerated to a carnage level, leading to loss of lives and properties (Aliyu, Ikedinma and Akinwande, 2018).

Attesting to this fact, Adetula (2016) avers that previously the herdsmen were known to wreak havoc in certain communities in Nigeria, but the rate at which they are committing these crimes has increased exponentially. This threatens the peace, security and unity of the nation as one geographical entity and will retard growth and development in all spheres of people's lives. Attempts by the federal government to curb the incessant farmers-herdsmen appear to be futile.

Garba (2016) observed that herdsmen and farmers co-existed for a long period but such co-existence has never been without tension because it demands a conciliation of rival interests. Conflict can erupt when livestock is poorly controlled and when herds wander on to cultivated fields. This has always had a tendency to occur at critical periods in the annual cycle, particularly during sowing when herds are late in leaving agricultural lands and during harvests, if they return too early. Clashes occur when agricultural activities hinder the movement of herds and cut off their access to water or pastures (Shetima and Usman, 2008). Nigeria Police Report (2017) viewed that a conservative estimate of about 2,000 to 3,000 people have been killed with thousands Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the apparent violent clashes between farmers and cattle herders in the North central part of Nigeria. Farmers have accused the Fulani herdsmen of failing to control their cattle and of damaging crops. In turn, the Fulani accuse farmers of cattle rustling. Familiar issues relating to land and water use, obstruction of traditional migration routes, livestock theft and crop damage tend to trigger more disputes.

The paper shall discuss conceptual issues as: the concept of conflict, concept of reconciliation, causes of farmers-herdsmen conflicts, effects of crop farmers and cattle herders' conflict, effects of farmers-herdsmen conflicts on national integration, conflict management strategies, identification of institutions involved in managing and resolving farmer-herder conflicts and mechanisms employed by institutions in managing farmer-herder conflicts.

The Concept of Conflict

Conflict is a social phenomenon that defies a single definition. One of the earliest definitions of Conflict was by Karl Marx (1818 -1883), a conflict theorist who defined conflict as the existence of divergent interests within a group or the result of each group or class

trying to pursue her interest which in the process, makes them come against one another with conflicts. Marx understood human society in terms of conflict between social classes, notably the conflict in capitalist societies between the bourgeoisie (the owners of the means of production who are the capitalists — basically the rich people) and the proletariat (the working class and the poor). Sehou (2022) observed that conflicts must be understood in their social contexts, involving values and beliefs, fears and suspicions, interests and needs, attitudes and actions, and relationships and networks. In this sense, conflicts can be regarded as an inevitable reality of every human group taking place in political, social, cultural, economic sectors, etc.

Otunuga (2016) viewed that conflict, though an inevitable consequence of social relationship is undesirable by humans due to the negative and catastrophic consequences it generates in social relationships. It is however important to state that all conflicts are not necessarily negative. Conflict can either be a factor for creative progress or a cause of disruption. Thus, conflicts can be harmful or harmless to humankind because is a struggle or competition between individuals groups or societies over incompatible goals which often leads to violence, destruction of life and property (Adeleke, 2018).

Conflicts is a disagreement between two or more people, communities or nations based on certain factors which may be social, ethnic, cultural, economic, political, and religious or a combination of two or more factors. Whenever the disagreement is not properly managed, it could degenerate into violent or armed conflict, which is physical war that involves the use of weapons like guns, spears, daggers, bows and arrows, as well as other sophisticated weapons (Musa, Ekhamheye & Meeqhaeel, 2021).

Conflict in this context connotes clash or disagreement between two or more groups who have incompatible differences. It is a situation where two or more parties pursue similar goals but believe that such goals are achievable by just one of them and employ every resource within their disposal to hinder the other party from attaining such goal.

Concept of Reconciliation

The term 'reconciliation' is used to refer either to a process or to an outcome or goal. Reconciliation, as an outcome, is an improvement in the relations among parties formerly at odds with one another. It is also seen as the process of making two people or groups of people friendly again after they have argued seriously or fought and kept apart from each other, or a situation in which this happens. The nature and degree of improvement required to qualify as reconciliation for any particular context is a matter of disagreement among theorists. So too, the reasons why relations have improved may play a role in determining whether reconciliation has genuinely taken place.

Causes of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflicts

Akanle, Adejare, Adewusi and Yusuf (2021) observed that the major cause of the continuous conflicts between herdsman and farmers in Nigeria lies in the quest for protection and preservation of secured economic sources of livelihood. Just as herdsman continue to move from one place to another in search of pasture for their cattle, so also farmers continue to make effort to secure their farmlands which is their major source of livelihood.

Burton (2016) cited in Akanle, Adejare, Adewusi and Yusuf (2021) opined that most of the recent attacks perpetrated by Fulani have been as a result of long-standing disagreements with various communities involved. This sometimes prompts them to attack farming communities that have at one time or the other caused them some grief or mishaps. This and several attacks on some farming communities in Nigeria, most especially in Plateau State, have been tagged as reprisal attacks. Burton (2016) noted that pre-existing communal conflicts have sustained the violence as herdsmen turned militants in the face of urbanization, desertification and perceived indifference of the Nigerian government to their plight.

Another causative factor worthy of mention is reprisal attack. This is a situation where by a group of people carry out an attack as a retaliation of an attack earlier meted on it by the other group. The question or the major concern here is whether such reprisal attacks are always in equal proportion to the one earlier meted out to them.

Expansion in farm production caused by encroachment of pastureland by farmers is also responsible for farmers-herdsmen conflicts. According to Ismaila & Bibi (2015), Adeleke (2018) and Akorede (2018), this is because the initial situation was that every land not cultivated is a potential pastureland but with the expansion in agriculture, it has narrowed down the available pastureland available thereby compelling the pastoralists to encroach into farmlands that were not supposed to be theirs.

Another reason for the incessant farmers – herdsmen conflicts in the northern parts of Nigeria as given by Conroy (2014) is the views of ethnic groups on land possession. He opines that, the Fulani's view land as a common resource which cannot be personalized while the sedentary communities usually see land as their exclusive preserve which no other community should encroach into.

The causes of herders-farmers conflicts have been traced to the ineffective management of natural resources, the negative effect of climate change, the existence of economic needs and economic grievances, and the absence of sustainable conflict management mechanisms. as well as declining state capacity to effectively govern the rural areas, changes in demographic, ecological and climatic conditions, land use rights, and alienation of land (Omotola & Hassan, 2015).

Furthermore, encroachment on farm-field or cattle thoroughfare, ignorance and/or negligence (Okoli, 2015); cattle rustling, destruction of crops by herdsmen, and seasonal southward migration of herdsmen (Gaffey, 2017); marginalization, changes in social relations as a result of severance of social ties between farming communities and migratory herders groups (Momale, 2015) are other causes of herders-farmers conflicts. Population explosion has been discovered, by many scholars, as one of the major causes of farmers-herdsmen conflicts in Nigeria. Several perspective of this causal phenomenon has been posited by these scholars. Population explosion made the farmers to cultivate more land thereby leaving little land for the pastoralist to graze on. This makes the pastoralists to move to others places where they can find more pasture for their cattle.

Bukari (2017) has argued that most lands acquired by Fulani for their activities are through informal means and their failure to register the lands to formalize the process after the acquisition is part of causes of land conflict between farmers and herders. Crop damage, attacks on cattle, and cattle theft/rustling are major conflict triggers, that initiate violence between the two groups, which often leads to cycles of revenge attacks. The implication of this is that the activities of both herders and farmers have been identified as some of the causes of herders and farmers conflicts in different parts of the country. Incessant conflicts between herders and farmers in Nigeria have paved way for the emergence of some many internally displaced camps besides the destruction of wealth yielding assets as well as human lives. Ofem and Inyang (2014) observed that herdsman-farmers conflict led to reduction in income, savings and crops output.

Similarly, Adeoye (2017) carried out a study on land use conflict between farmers and herdsmen in parts of Kano, Yobe and Borno States of Nigeria: Nomads' viewpoints found that intrusion on the grazing reserves and encroachment on waterholes for cattle were farmers' actions that caused skirmishes while deliberate grazing of cattle on crops and herder's indiscriminate bush burning often infuriated the farmers

It cannot be overstated that food security is one of the global challenges with acute scenarios in developing countries, including Nigeria. In most cases, farmers of staple food crops and herders enter into violent clashes for several reasons. Among others, the following causes were identified by the International Crisis Group (2017):

1. **Scarcity:** Scarcity here is expressed in terms of desertification and drought. As the arid and sometimes semi-arid northern Nigerian begins to experience shortage of rainfall, especially between the months of June and September, herders begin to move southward in search of productive grazing land space for the survival of their flocks and sustain their own livelihood. The geographical migration often engenders clashes between the nomadic herders and more sedentary crops farmers who feel insecure as cattle invade their farms. In most cases, this feeling of insecurity result into violent killings, destruction of property and farm produces.
2. **Changing practices between farmers and pastoralists:** It has been opined that unlike the past, the increasing involvement of uncivilized young people who are either inexperienced in communal interrelationship or dispute management due to the withdrawal of the old one, increases the chances of violence between herders and farmers.
3. **Cattle rustling and rural banditry:** Herders are tensely pressed to move towards south as the incidence of the emergence of bandit groups and theft of cattle increases. This, in part, can be seen in the case of the activities of the indigenes-settlers' crises in the north-central and the insurgences in the north-central that trouble both the northern hemisphere and the entire country in recent times.
4. **Conflict escalation:** This occurs when crises of conflicts produce multiplier or ripple effects as a result of different factors like increasing rate of poverty, hostility, proliferation of small arms, resistance, invasion, and various forms of losses, among others. There is growing conscious awareness of pastoralists that they are becoming unwanted by farmers who see them as a threat. Thus, the suspicion between the two groups makes for strained relationship and possibility of insecurity as each group seeks to protect its means of livelihood

Effects of Crop Farmers and Cattle Herders' conflict

The state exists mainly for the protection of lives and property and ensuring the well being of the citizens, but conflicts had resulted in loss of human life and property. Violent conflict in Nigeria like other parts of the world has generated a great problem in human relations. Dabo (2015) opined that conflict in Jos has exerted its effects on physical structures, economic and on human beings leaving behind negative consequences.

On Education: - Education transformed lives, especially for the very poorest and most marginalised children. This happens when people are given the required knowledge to resolve disputes peacefully. Conflict among farmers and cattle herders had led to decreased access to schooling as teaching and the calendar is often disrupted. Obateru (2012) as cited in Dabo (2015) observed that teachers are afraid of going to some areas to teach, while in other places, pupils/students are withdrawn from schools due to displacement of parents and fear of insecurity.

In Jos metropolis and some parts of its environment, most Christian's teachers have abandoned their jobs that are located in Muslim dominated areas and same is applicable to Muslim teachers. This has resulted in the death of so many teachers and resulting to poor learning opportunity by the learners (Dabo, 2015).

UNESCO (2010) as cited in Dabo (2015) reported that conflict have a negative effect on educational attainment even for those who attend school, the over-crowding effect of what they see sent negative feelings among them. Conflict has resulted in increased drop out and reduction in educational survival rates due to displacement, and economic hardship. However, education can heal the wounds of conflicts, solve unemployment, build peace and promote economic and social development.

On Economic development: Economic development encompasses the whole sector of the economy; it involves changes from primary to tertiary sector. Instead of Plateau State experiencing rapid growth and development, the state of peace and tourism has been bedeviled with series of violence which resulted in killings, destructions of farms, burning of property and business premises. Daily Trust Newspaper (2004) as cited in Dabo (2015) made President Obasanjo to declare a state of emergency in Plateau State and he stated that "violence had reached unprecedented levels and hundreds have been killed with much more wounded or displaced from their homes on account of their ethnic or religious identification, School for children has been disrupted; businesses have lost billions of naira and property worth much more destroyed". For the purpose of this paper, economic development shall be discussed include the following: agriculture, livestock, business activities and landed property among others.

1. **Agriculture:** During farmers-herders conflict crops cannot be planted, weeded or harvested depending on the period, meaning decreasing greatly the levels of agricultural production. Ijeoma (2014) stated that in conflict situations, food producing regions experiencing seizing or destroying of food stocks, livestock and other assets, interrupting marketed supplies of food not only in these regions but also in neighbouring regions. In Jos and environs, food crops production had been affected by several conflicts and the areas prone to conflict has abandoned farming. Many no longer go to farm for fear of being killed

by Hausa/Fulani herdsmen. Crop farmers' productivity and profits are reduced as a result of cattle destroying crops and indiscriminate bush burning. Many farmers have lost part or all of their crops. This resulted in lower yields, resulting in lower income for farmers who make farming their primary occupation. This has a negative impact on urban dwellers that depend on these farmers for their food supply's savings, credit repayment capacity, food security, and economic well-being. Farmers and rural/agricultural production are very discouraged by this.

2. **Livestock:** The livestock sub-sector in Plateau State is dominated by traditional systems of production, processing and marketing. The herdsmen and farmers stayed together and graze their animals without problems. The story changed completely, since 2001 conflicts the state had been witnessing conflicts in some parts of the state because the 2001 conflicts led to the killing of a number of Fulani community leaders and herders. A large number of livestock were burnt or killed, recently cattle rustling had been a major cause of most conflicts in the state, and this had destroyed the economy of the state (Dabo, 2015).
3. **Business Activities:** Conflicts distort business operation because it businesses had to closed down and citizens that have small and medium scale enterprises cannot open shops for business transaction and some had to relocated to areas that are relatively safe. Some companies, hotels, leather works and artisans among others had left Jos the capital city for safer places where they can do business without disruption of their goods because production cannot take place in an atmosphere of violence.
4. **Physical structures:** The conflicts in the northern parts of Plateau State had resulted to the large scale of destruction of houses, places of worship and shops. This creates a set back to the economy and the Gross Domestic Product will be affected. Ladan (2013) opined that conflict had resulted in social tension and new pattern of settlement where Muslim move to Muslim dominated areas and Christian moved to Christian dominated areas a clear case in Jos North and Jos South of Plateau State.
5. **Loss of lives:** During conflicts, both farmers and herders may be displaced. Conflict forces Nomadic herdsmen to relocate in host communities. For fear of being attacked by nomads in the forest, host farmers, stop going to distant farms. Displaced farmers have become a risk to other farmers because they are forced to depend on beggars for food for themselves and their families. This has resulted in a state of poverty in these areas. As a result of the wars, many nomads were killed, leading to reprisal killings by host communities, as well as the slaughter of nomads' cattle herds. In addition, some of the victims (both adults and children) sustained serious injuries, while others were maimed. As a result, some woman farmers have been relegated to widowhood. All of this has resulted in a significant reduction in the area's agricultural labor force. There have been reports of small arms and ammunition proliferation during the process.

Conflict Management Strategies

Conflict researchers have identified a number of conflict management strategies that can be employed in the constructive management of conflict situations.

In a research conducted by Jude, (2013), he highlighted the following conflict management strategies: mediation, arbitration, conciliation, litigation,

1. **Mediation:** - This refers to the voluntary informal, non-binding process undertaken by an external party that fosters the settlement of differences or demands between directly interested parties. Mediation is an alternative form of dispute resolution and is supported by an unbiased third-party mediator. Mediation is one of the alternative dispute resolutions which are voluntary and informal process for resolution of disputes. Mediation is a process which is under the control of the parties. The mediator acts as a middle person who helps to come on a negotiated common point of their dispute. They are trained professionals or sometimes attorneys who assist the parties in dispute to meet at a common place where they can discuss their issues and can try to negotiate to reach at a common output. A mediator uses special kind of conversation and communication to resolve the parties' dispute.
2. **Arbitration:** - It is a conflict management strategy which is a step higher than mediation and negotiation. Arbitration is the use and assistance of a neutral in the setting of a dispute between conflict parties. Arbitration is like a court procedure because the parties submit evidence similar to a trial where the third party hear the entire situation and give his decision which is binding upon the parties. The objective of Arbitration is to settle the dispute which arose between the parties by one or more arbitrators appointed by them by going through the documents and evidences.
3. **Conciliation:** - This refers to a voluntary process in which a professional facilitator assists employers and employees to resolve disputes when their own unassisted efforts have not succeeded. The process can be described as a facilitated search for agreement between disputing parties. Is the settling dispute without litigation? It is an informal process in which conciliator i.e. third party tries to bring the disputants to agreement. He overcomes the disputable issues by lowering the tension, improvement in communication, interpreting issues, providing technical assistance, exploring potential solutions and bringing the negotiated settlement before the parties. The kinds of Conciliation include:
 - i. Voluntary Conciliation- In this method parties can voluntarily participate in the process of conciliation for resolving their dispute.
 - ii. Compulsory Conciliation- If parties do not want to take the opportunity of voluntary conciliation then they can go for compulsory conciliation. In this method, if the parties do not want to meet the other party to resolve the dispute then the process is said to be compulsory. This method is commonly used in labour cases.
4. **Litigation:** - This is the process of taking a dispute to court is known as litigation. A court case can take a long time to prepare, with a number of steps to be gone through before the actual hearing. Litigation can be used for a wide range of disputes, including commercial disputes, employment issues and family law matters. There is a range of different courts and tribunals, depending on the nature of the case to be heard as well as the value of your claim.

Mechanisms Employed by Institutions in Managing Farmer-Herder Conflicts

The herders-farmers conflicts have endured and escalated because governments at the centre and states where they happened have not demonstrated firm resolve and commitment to tackling the menace. The body language of the leadership and its reactions suggests complicity in the conflicts, which accounts largely for its sustenance and escalation. Agbese

(2017) stated that the real shock is not that these killings, maiming and displacements go on with impunity but that the Federal Government seems to be doing Rip Van Winkle in the face of this critical national challenge. This is worsened, according to Eke (2017), by government inability to caution them or take any effective measure to contain the situation; which seemingly have provided the fulcrum for their increased impunity and wanton destruction of lives and property. Agbese (2017) pointed out that none of the attackers have been arrested and the Federal Government is unwilling to respond to the situation; thus, concluded that they have faceless sponsors and godfathers whose aims and objectives the attackers are carrying out to the letter.

In view of the prevailing circumstances, the immediate viable option available to State Governors committed to protecting the lives and properties of its citizenry is to revisit the voluntary policing apparatus in their respective states. These voluntary policing outfits are already in existence under different names and status in various states where they perform diverse functions. Ogbozor (2016), Okenyodo and Ugwu (2014) noted these outfits are founded based on community associations (like Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, Residents/Tenants Associations, Street Guards, etc); ethnic or religious affiliations (Odua Peoples' Congress [OPC], Bakkassi Boys, Egbesu Boys, Hisbah, etc); and state-sponsorship (vigilante groups).

Onwughalu and Obiorah (2017) observed that the various states government should put machinery in place to curb the challenges of procedures for recruitment and training, ignorance of the provisions of the law, lack of basic operational equipment such as flashlights, warm clothing, raincoats, booths, whistles, uniforms, identity cards etc; police harassment and extortion of members of voluntary policing outfit, multiplicity of informal policing organizations, excesses by the voluntary policing outfits, whose members are accused of collusion such as cover ups for criminals, harassments of citizens, unlawful killings of suspects, confiscation of properties and weak accountability structures. In this vein, the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) and its Public Private Partnership (PPP) model of governance and financial operations is worthy of emulation in this regard to redressing these challenges and to ensuring that the rejigged voluntary policing outfit outlive successive government in the state.

Mohammed and Abdul (2020) cited in Musa, Ekhamheye and Meeqhaeel (2021) in a bid to offer long-lasting suggestions to the herders and farmers conflicts in Nigeria proposed a document illustrating a pragmatic way on how to go about achieving the task ahead. Titled "Solutions to Herders-Farmers Conflict in Nigeria: The Academic Perspectives and Business Implications". Subsequently, the study confirmed that most of the recommendations offered by the academic articles regarding how to sustain long-lasting peace and harmony between herders and farmers conflict revolve on mass orientation on conflict management and the development of ranches as the apparent solutions in avoiding the conflict. However, based on the foregoing, the study recommends the adoption of the Federal Government ranches program to some selected states as a pilot scheme to assess its applicability on a nationwide scale.

Ojukwu, Osuchukwu and Enemuoh (2020) opined that Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law is closely linked to Nigeria's Land Use Act of 1978, which vested

authority of land administration within the state governors. While the Land Use Act of 1978 provided the legal precedence for state governors to establish laws dictating how land is distributed within their states, it also provides that there must be means of recourse for the revocation of land rights by the state (Federal Government of Nigeria, 1978).

The major aims and objectives of the law are as follows:

1. To prevent the destruction of farm crops
2. To bring to an imminent end clashes between farmers and herders
3. Protect the environment while optimizing the use of land
4. To optimize the use of land resources in the face of overstretched land and increasing population
5. To prevent, control, and manage the spread of diseases
6. To create a conducive environment for large scale crop production etc

Furthermore, under the law, the Livestock Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is to give the authority to administer, regulate, and control livestock in the state. The ministry gives permit for ranching to citizens although this is subject to the Governor's approval and businesses regarding ranching are to be done under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Ranching Permits are to be issued though it has to be for period of time which must not be more than one year and it can be renewed annually. In cases of natural disaster, the ministry is expected to reimburse in whole or part or postpone payment for ranching fees. The law further stated that an intending rancher is to send an application to the ministry with written consent from the owner or family head of the land where he intends to set up the ranch, the land owner must also get a go ahead from community leaders before a one year lease can be granted to an intending rancher.

Ranching permit according to the law can only be issued with approval from the state government after Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been done by the Ministry of Agriculture and the land is found suitable, a written agreement from the owner/family head of the land approved by the community leaders must be tendered. Upon approval, the rancher is to pay lease to the owner of the land and then get a —notice of permit from the ministry.

The Anti-Open Grazing law also noted that permits already issued can be revoked by the ministry at any time although with approval from the State Government and compensation must be paid to the rancher. Land owners are not allowed to sell a leased land under any circumstances. The law clearly stated that besides the ranch owners and staff, eligibility of people allowed to enter the ranch will be determined by the ministry. By implication, every ranch must be fenced and movement in and out overseen by the government. The law also stipulates that in cases where livestock wander into someone else's farmland and destroys crops/plants, the owner of the livestock would have to pay damages or pay some sort of compensation to the land owner.

The law included the fact that the ministry is expected to develop an integrated modern livestock and a production strategy for Benue State accompanied with guidelines for its implementation. They are also to monitor programmes which are expected to integrate and boost livestock production/rearing in the state. Providing for training in animal

husbandry is an important task to be carried out by the ministry. They are to work together with ranchers from the rural areas and from neighbouring states bordering them.

Simon O (2019) opined that the federal government has taken measures to end the crisis between the farmers and the herders in the country. The recently unveiled National Livestock Transformation Plan (2018-2027) by the federal government to end all forms of open grazing by 2027 in the country. The aim is to end all forms of open grazing and provide ranches for all the cattle and livestock in the country. These measures signal greater commitment on the government's part, but they are yet to be implemented and violence continues.

Recommendations

For proper conflict resolution between cattle herders and farmers, the following suggestions are made:

1. Formal education for both herders and farmers should be promoted via individual and mass communication through extension agents and radio programs, accordingly.
2. Nomadic education and vocational training schools should also be improved in order to improve their efficiency
3. Plateau State Government in conjunction with necessary Federal Government agencies like NEMA, Ministry for Humanitarian Affairs should ensure that those affected by herders and farmers conflicts in the state are provided with basic needs as temporal measures, while making efforts to ensure that their affected houses and other assets are reconstructed for their safe return to their initial home.
4. A proper internal security measure should be put in place in the state to reduce the complicated herders-farmers conflicts, like community policing and good network of the existing vigilante groups.
5. The National Assembly should amend the current Land Use Policy to give herders a more equitable share of land ownership, use, and power.
6. Herders and farmers should form more unions and alliances to express their interests and speak collectively. By seeking redress from the appropriate authority if a conflict occurred, this might minimize the incidence of "jungle justice."
7. The Traditional rulers and the herders' well-known Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN) should be fully involved in sensitization of their members, in which they place their confidence.

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