

Factors Associated with Pastoral and Crop Farmers Conflict in Derived Savannah Zone of Oyo State, Nigeria

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KEYWORDS Conflict. Pastoral. Crop. Farmers. Savannah. Nigeria

ABSTRACT The study investigated the factors associated with pastoral and crop farmers conflict in derived savannah zone of Saki-West Local Government Area of Oyo State. Eighty respondents were randomly selected from eight villages in the study area. The data collected were subjected to both descriptive (frequency counts and percentage) and inferential (Chi-square) statistical analysis. The result of the analysis reveals that majority (73.8%) of the respondents were males while others (26.3%) were females. The result further shows that most of respondents (70.1%) are aged between 30-49 years and more than three quarters (83.8%) of respondents in the study area were married, only 8.8% are single. Chi-square analysis showed that age ($\chi^2=38.75$), Gender ($\chi^2 = 18.05$), Marital status ($\chi^2 = 47.80$), education ($\chi^2 = 59.05$), religion ($\chi^2 = 36.33$) and years of residence ($\chi^2= 56.00$) are significantly related with causes of conflict. Informal institutions are preferred by the respondents in conflict resolution.

INTRODUCTION

The Nigeria livestock industry constitutes a very important national resource with a great deal of untapped potentials. Domestic livestock species contribute significantly to the nutritional, socio-economic and cultural requirements of Nigerian. The larger ruminants are particularly important in increasing and improving crop and livestock and production through the use of these animals as sources of farm and on-farm power, notably their use for animal traction.

The literature of Nigerians pastoral development has shown that the major environmental limitation to pastoralist include drought and water scarcity, insect/diseases, infestations; grass shortage and climatic factor. (Awogbade, 1983; Adefolalu, 1986; Bekure, 1983). Universally, the pastoralists depend on moisture and vegetation in the right place, time, quantity and quality. It is generally known that there are competing uses of resources between pastoral and crop-farmers this then lead to conflict. The resources majorly in question is land and water which can be put into various productive uses, though scarce but can be better managed (Cousins, 1996; Buhari, 1998). The most frequent causes of conflict between crop farmers and pastoralist as identified by Gefu and Gills (1990) are crop damage caused by animals belong to herdsman, such conflict have arisen from farm encroachment on cattle routes and sometimes water points. Other conflict sources include grazing of harvested crops.

There are certain instances where deliberate encroachment of cattle routes were done by farmers to bait herds men into trouble. This is a very common phenomenon. Pastoralists are usually on the receiving end in such instances as they are often incriminated for crop destruction.

Ekong (2003) enumerated that conflict may have positive and negative effects. In positive effect, people may not know that certain nagging issue exist. Thus conflict leads to clear definition of issue. Once such issue have been identified, they can them be amicably resolved.

During conflict, group cohesion and solidarity increase and thus positive effect can be corrected for more efficient attainment of group goal. Conflict usually leads to disunity, violence, disagreement and bloodshed because parties involved try to reach their objective. It is a form of social interaction in which the actors seek to obtain scarce by weakening or eliminating other contender.

The method used in resolving conflict depends on the nature and the magnitude of the conflict. In all cases where conflict has been occasioned by crop destruction and where the offending pastoralist admit guilt; interpersonal agreement may be reached, depending on the extent of the damage, compensation (varying in amount) is often demanded and paid where minimal crops have been destroyed. This is a situation where pastoralists and crop farmers have co-habited for a long time. In such cases, the herdsman speak the local language very

fluently, thereby enhancing social integration and neighbourhood. There are other instances where pastoralist –crop farmers interpersonal relationship is not very cordial, conflict arise in such situation are not usually resolved by personal intervention. The village head and the head of herdsman (Ardos) are usually involved in settling the dispute (Kolawole et al, 1993).

It is against this background that the study intended to provide answers to the following research questions:

- a. What are the causes of conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists in the study area?
- b. Which institutions are involved in conflict resolutions of crop farmers and pastoralists in the study area?

General Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study was to examine the factors associated with pastoral – crop farmers conflict in derived Savannah zone of Oyo State.

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. Identify the personal characteristics of the pastoralist and crop farmers
- ii. Determine causes of conflict between the pastoralist and crop farmers.
- iii. Identify the institutions that are involved in conflict resolution between pastoralist and crop farmers.
- iv. Establish relationship if any between personal characteristics and causes of conflict between pastoralist and crop farmers in the study area.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Saki West Local Government Area of Oyo State. It is located in Oyo North. It lies on 8°50'N, 3°20'E in the Northern part of Oyo State. The Asabari Hill is a prominent relief feature and the vegetation is savannah. The study area shares boundary with Atisbo, and Saki East Local Government Areas. Farming is the main occupation of the majority of people in this area while others engaged in trading, hawking and agricultural processing.

The target populations for this study are the pastoralist and crop farmers. Purposive sampling technique was used to select eight villages from the study area based on the population of pastoralists and crop farmers respectively. Simple random technique was employed in selecting

pastoralist and crop farmers respectively. 40 respondents each making a total of eighty respondents for the study.

Structured interview schedule was used in collecting data from the respondents. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, while Chi-square test was used as inferential statistical tool.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of the analysis in Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to personal characteristics. Majority (70.1%) of the respondents have their age range between 30 and 49 years while 21.3% were between 50 years and above and only few (8.8%) were aged between 20

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to personal characteristics

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Age</i>		
20-29	7	8.8
30-39	36	43.8
40-49	21	26.3
50-59	13	16.3
50 above	4	5.0
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	59	73.8
Female	21	26.2
<i>Level of Education</i>		
No formal education	36	45.0
Adult education	9	11.3
Primary education	20	25.0
Primary education uncompleted	5	6.3
Secondary education	4	5.0
Secondary education uncompleted	6	7.5
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Married	67	83.8
Single	7	8.8
Divorced	3	3.8
Separated	3	3.8
<i>Religion</i>		
Islam	20	32.5
Christianity	49	61.3
Traditional	5	6.3
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
Yoruba	35	43.8
Fulani	25	31.2
Hausa	20	25.0
<i>Years of Residence</i>		
1-10	2.0	2.5
11-20	12.0	15.1
21-30	22.0	27.7
Above 31	44.0	54.7

Source: Field Survey, 2004.
N=80

and 29 years. It could therefore be inferred that farming and rearing of animal are predominantly carried out by middle aged people who are energetic and productive in the economic sector.

Majority (73.8%) of the respondents are male while only 26.2% are female. This shows that more male are involved in both farming and rearing of animals. According to Olaleye (2000) who reported the activities of women as helpers or suppliers of labour in "light" farm operations such as planting, weeding, processing and marketing. Though, there are few women but they also have their role they play.

Table 1 further revealed that more than half (55.0%) of the respondents had one form of the other type of education ranging from adult education to secondary education while others (45.0%) are illiterates. Hence, it could be inferred that there is high level of literacy among the farmers in the study area. More than three quarter (83.8%) of the respondents in the study area are married while only few (8.8%) were single while others are either divorced or separate (7.4%). This corroborates the assertion of Jibowo (1992) that vast majority of the adult population of any society consist of married people.

Most of the farmers studied are Muslim (61.3%) while others are either Christians or traditionalist (38.7%). Yoruba tribe forms the major tribe (43.8%) among the respondents, followed by Fulani tribe (32.2%) and Hausa tribe (25.0%). It is quite evidence that the study was carried out in Yoruba land and the study was out carried where most prominent tribe is Yoruba. Most (54.7%) of the respondents residing in the study area have spent between 31 years and above living in the area while 42.8% of them had spent 11 and 30 years and others (2.5%) of the respondents have their have their years of residence between 1 and 10 years. This result shows that majority of the responding grew up in the study area.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to causes of conflict between pastoralists and crop farmers

<i>Causes of conflict</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Crop damage by herders of livestock	32	40.0
Blockage of water	25	31.3
Encroachment	6	7.2
Improper management of cattle	17	21.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

B. Causes of Conflict

Over one-third (40%) of the respondents indicated the most predominant cause of conflict between crop and pastoral farmers as damage by herders livestock, followed by blockage of water (31.3%), improper management of cattle (21.2%) and the least, Grazing land encroachment (7.2%) (Table 2). The result revealed that the predominant manifest causes of conflict are the crop damaged by the pastoralist and blockage of water points by the farmers. This is in line with Williams finding in 1998 who observed similar finding between farmers and pastoralist in Semi Arid Africa.

C. Institutions involved in Conflict Resolution

The result of the analysis reveals that almost half (42.5%) of the respondents reported traditional rulers as the major arbitrator of conflict involving crop farmers and pastoralist in the study area. This is followed by the local government committee/peaceful conflict reconciliation (30.0%), crop farmers union (12.5%) while cattle breeders union (8.8%) are involved in conflict management and police/court (6.3%) are also indicated by the respondents to be involved in conflict resolution (Table 3). This result shows that informal traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution are still functional in the study area, both crop farmers and pastoralist have preference for the issue of conflict arbitration. The desire for sustaining relationships is the major factor that informed farmers and pastoralist preference of informal authority because taking disputes to formal authority like police/courts of law may worsens the relationship between the disputants.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to institutions involved in conflict resolution

<i>Institutions involved</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Traditional ruler	34	42.5
Police court	5	6.3
Local government committee	14	7.5
Peaceful conflict reconciliation	10	12.5
Crop farmer union	10	12.5
Cattle breeder union	7	8.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

D. Evidence from the result of Chi-square test

Analysis between selected variables and causes

of conflicts shows that age, gender, marital status, education, religion and years of residence are significantly related to causes of conflict.

Table 4: Summary of Chi-square test of relationship between personal characteristics of the respondents and causes of conflict

Variables	df	χ^2_{Cal}	χ^2_{tab}	Sig	Remark
Age	4	38.75	9.49	0.000	S
Gender	1	18.05	3.84	0.000	S
Marital Status	3	47.80	7.82	0.000	S
Education	5	59.05	11.07	0.000	S
Religion	2	36.33	5.99	0.000	S
Years of residence	3	56.00	7.82	0.004	S

Source: Field Survey, 2004.

df - Degree of freedom

S - Significant at $P < 0.05$

Age is a factor that could causes conflict because the respondents are matured to claim their rights, since the majority involved in crop farming and herding of livestock are male, they are also egocentric hence they could cause conflict at any pointing time. The singles that are unmarried could easily cause conflict because they lack family commitment.

Education is another factor which could lead to conflict because education enlightens people and they have access to information as regards their existence and treating them as inferior could lead to conflict.

Religion and years of residence could cause conflict because, diversity of religion may lead to misunderstanding and some of the crop farmers may be claiming the rights of ownership on the land as they cultivate almost available land.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study investigated the factors associated with pastoral-crop farmers in Saki West Local Government Area of Oyo State. Majority of the respondents are middle age between 30 and 49 years with mean age 41 years who are male, married and literate. Majority have their religion to be Islamic and residing in the area over 31 years.

The most predominant causes of conflict between the crop farmers and pastoralist are damaging of crops and blockage of water points and they preferred informal authority in resolving

conflicts. It was found out that variables such as age, gender, marital status, religion, education and year of residence were significantly related to causes of conflict between the crop and pastoral farmers.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The pastoralists should be given land use rights to enable them to manage land for pasture.
2. The factors associated with conflict should be properly managed by the appropriate institutions involving in conflict resolutions.

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