



# **IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT BETWEEN FARMERS AND HERDSMAN ON SOLID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN TAFAWA BALEWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BAUCHI STATE, NIGERIA**

**Dr Jude Idemudia Okoh**

Department of Public Health, Texilla American University, Georgetown, Guyana.

**Dr Isibor Areghan**

Department of Accounting, Finance, and Taxation, Caleb University, Nigeria.

**Dr Udume Mercy**

Sociology Department, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

## **ABSTRACT**

*The study examined impact of environmental conflict between farmers and herdsman on solid economic development in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Bauchi State, Nigeria. The study used primary data shared through the use of questionnaire for the study and the questionnaire was analyzed using statistical tools of tables and percentages. Findings revealed that Fulani herdsman and farmers violent conflicts have created humanitarian arises many communities in Nigeria. The study thus recommended that Government at all levels should barn open grazing and indiscriminate movement of cattle on roads.*

**Keywords:** Fulani Herdsmen, Farmers, Agriculture, Tafawa Balewa Local Government, Bauchi State.

**Cite this Article:** Dr Jude Idemudia Okoh, Dr Isibor Areghan, Dr Udume Mercy. Impact of Environmental Conflict between Farmers and Herdsman on Solid Economic Development in Tafawa Balewa Local Government, Bauchi State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Sciences Research and Development (IJSSRD)*, 7(1), 2025, 13-33.

[https://iaeme.com/MasterAdmin/Journal\\_uploads/IJSSRD/VOLUME\\_7\\_ISSUE\\_1/IJSSRD\\_07\\_01\\_002.pdf](https://iaeme.com/MasterAdmin/Journal_uploads/IJSSRD/VOLUME_7_ISSUE_1/IJSSRD_07_01_002.pdf)

---

## 1.1. Introduction

Farmers and herders have always had issues in Nigeria, but it increased as the population grew, leading to more cultivation of grassland and livestock paths. As a result of the paucity of pasture area in the north, the herdsmen migrate south. Conflicts impair food security, putting participants and Tafawa Balewa at risk. Conflicts disrupt and imperil Nigeria's ethnic harmony and agricultural output (Moritz, 2021), resulting in agricultural damage, cow assaults, property devastation, and cattle rustling in most states.

Climate change, population growth, environmental degradation, government policy, and armed insurgency have all been connected to farmer-herder conflicts (Suleiman, 2021). Farmers-herder conflicts may undermine Tafawa Balewa's food security. The increasing frequency of conflicts in Tafawa Balewa needs a careful analysis of the implications for food security. Tafawa Balewa's management of farmer-herder disputes is also unclear, except for some governors' efforts to prohibit open grazing of cattle in the south and central belt.

Nigerian communities are presently experiencing incessant frightening security challenges orchestrated by cattle herders and crop farmer's conflict, even security operatives are not spared in these attacks. It is no longer news that every day, the Nigerian media are flouted with ugly headlines such as "Callous herdsmen attacked, butcher, and raped women". Fresh attack: Herdsmen ambush, open fire on NSCD, Police, soldiers and kill 10", "Benue state grieves again 87 innocent people including catholic priest and a family of 8 with their newly born baby slaughtered by Fulani herdsmen at night in cold blood", President Buhari has not done enough to stop the killings" to mention but few. The situation is very disturbing and embarrassing to the government, people and all security agencies of this country. Despite calls from highly placed Nigerian past leaders, clergy men, politicians and renowned scholars for the federal government of Nigeria to stop the killings, the killings has continued unabated. Farms

are destroyed; farmers are killed, planting differed, farms abandoned and harvest left to rot away. One can imagine the damage that these attacks are doing to the nation's food production as well as the socio-economic development of Tafawa Balewa. This may impede the ability of Tafawa Balewa to reduce food imports and achieve sustainable food security.

For several decades, Nigeria has continued to witness sustained attacks on farmers and the unarmed innocent rural dwellers across Tafawa Balewa claiming thousands of lives and damaging property worth millions of dollars, injuring scores and displacing many more people from their homes. Often times, these farmers and rural dwellers are taken unaware, overpowered, and injured; and the harden take undue advantage to steal, rape, kidnap and raze houses. Sunday (2021) contends that: the tension between Fulani herdsman and farming communities has existed for many years. There has been a dramatic escalation in recent times to include many more attacks, kidnappings and killings by the nomads. Between 2022 and 2022, Fulani militants killed about 80 people in total, but by 2021, they had killed 1, 229 people. Benue, Taraba, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kaduna and Katsina States have been the worst hit of late having suffered devastating attacks by the Fulani herdsman with a heavy toll on human lives and property. Fulani herdsman brutally kill natives and invaded farm communities including women and children in various states across Tafawa Balewa. They are armed with sophisticated weapons and usually attack their target communities at a time they are most vulnerable such as at midnight or on Sundays when they are in church, killing people indiscriminately and burning houses and looting their property. Most worrisome is the brutality and impunity with which the assailants go about expects without regards for law and the sanctity of life. The Nigerian police and even the military seem powerless to defend the victims from being mercilessly slaughtered in their homes.

Farmers and herders' dispute continues to endanger human and economic life. The fierce fight for scarce resources has resulted in many deaths and herd destruction. In majority of these exchanges, people are slain and property damaged or lost, leaving an already vulnerable populace poorer. As a result of the frequency and intensity of these clashes, towns and villages have been destroyed; crops have been squandered as well as human and animal life.

Several state administrations have approved anti-grazing legislation to ease tensions between herders and farmers. To try and improve relations between the two parties, all of this was done. The Mambilla Plateau in Sarduma Local Government Area, Bauchi State, was assaulted by armed herders from June 17th to 20th, 2021. On January 30, 2018, a number of herders were killed in Leme Community, Bauchi State (Solomon, 2021).

On January 17, 2018, in Gareji Village, the same thing happened on April 10 in Dori, Mesuma, Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area, Bauchi State. In Taraba, herder-farmer conflict has spanned many land resource factors. Farmers and herders in Northern Nigeria, particularly Taraba, face reduced access to land resources. There is a lot of violence when farmers and grazing pastures are competing (Solomon, 2021). Local government districts including Ibi, Bali, Wukari, and Takunin Bauchi State have been hit the hardest, says Abbas (2022).

Nigerians rely heavily on agricultural produce for their livelihood and economic security. Farmers and herders are crucial in meeting Tafawa Balewa's nutritional needs and ensuring family food security (Onuoha, & Ezirim, 2021). To achieve food security for all, people must have continual physical and economic access to adequate, safe, and nutrient-rich food to meet their dietary needs and lead active and healthy lives. A people are hungry if they lack physical or economic access to food (Food and Agricultural Organisation-FAO, 2021). Recent reports have sparked fears of a food crisis in various countries, including Nigeria. Food security is defined as ensuring that individuals have access to enough food at all times to meet their nutritional needs.

The problem is even worsened when significant number (59%) of the respondents agreed that climate change has increased the incidence of drought in the area. Drought coupled with increasing dry spells is likely to affect the growth and development of both crops and livestock in the study area. The result here agrees with the findings of Abaje, *et al.* (2021) who reported a decline in crop yield and an increase in drought in their study.

## **2.1 Concept of Herdsmen Farmers Conflict in Nigeria**

The need of promoting agriculture as an alternative to oil as a key source of national wealth is being emphasized all throughout Nigeria. Governmental and non-governmental organizations utilize a range of agricultural programs. Many individuals are entering farming as a result of the increased emphasis on agricultural output; similarly, more individuals are entering livestock and cow breeding in particular (Ajibo, et al., 2021:158). Farmers and Herdsman compete for available land resources as a result of the agricultural boom. As cattle graze on farmers' lands, farmers retaliate by attacking herdsman's cows, a multi-dimensional issue emerges (Ajibo, et al., 2021:158). Herdsman assault farmers as a form of retaliation because they cherish their cows so highly. As a result, attacks and retaliation by farmers and Herdsman result in the loss of lives and property, as well as national disintegration (Ajibo, et al., 2021:158).

Aljazeera (2021) compiled a timeline of Fulani herdsmen attacks in Nigeria, which revealed that the Herdsman murdered 3,780 Nigerians in assaults across the nation, omitting the injured and abducted. Farmers, on the other side, have slaughtered dozens of cows and Fulani Herdsman in retaliation for cows destroying crops and agricultural products. According to Aljazeera (2021) “Herdsman stormed two communities in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area in Bauchi state, murdering eight residents in reprisal for the slaughter of 112 cows.”

### **2.1.1 Causes of Farmer-Herdsman Conflicts**

There are various reasons for the Farmer-Herdsman conflict which include: destruction of crops, contamination of streams by cattle, over-grazing of land, disregard for local traditional authorities, female harassment, harassment of nomads by youths of host communities, indiscriminate bush burning, defecation of cattle on roads, cattle theft, and straying of cattle (Ofuoku & Isife, 2019). Clashes between pastoral and farming communities in northern Nigeria revolves around disputes over grazing land and water point, increasing insecurity, political and economic marginalization to mention but a few (Mkutu, 2022). Greatest number of researchers relating climate change to problems of uncertainty and conflict maintain that it may act as a ‘threat multiplier’ through accumulation pressure to those nations and societies who previously suffer from glitches of underdevelopment, suppression, or conflict (Buhaug et al., 2021). The condition has been worsened by the spectacle of climate variation, whose changing aspects tend to have been exasperating natural resource conflicts globally (Chukwuma & Atelhe, 2022). As a results of population increased and new policies on agriculture and urbanization that does not encourage mobile livestock keeping as an effective way of living or production system, Herdsman in Africa are usually the victims (Hesse & Macgregor, 2021). Natural resource control/use, access to resources, competition over identities as well as indigeneity are the motivators of conflicts in the Middle-Belt of Nigeria (Sayne, 2022 Mercy Corps, 2022). This also concurs with the view of Adisa (2022), that Farmer-Herdsman conflict has continued to be the most protagonist resource use conflict in Nigeria.

Conflicts for land uses and other natural resources are characteristically connected with conflicting interests over the category of land use, restricted access and usage rights, indistinct possession and assets rights and the demarcation of land margins (Omar, et. al., 2022). Similarly, Gefu and Kolawole (2022) opined that farmlands that are usually left to follow for the soil to regain its fertility naturally which also provides dry season grazing areas are presently

occupied by dry season farming and major public projects which most often prevents dry season grazing which results to fierce conflict among users (Gefu, 2022). Audu (2022) also observed that lack of formal education, inadequate grazing reserves, lack of access to water, pollution of water points, indiscriminate bush burning, cattle rustling, land tenure system and climate change were the causes of Farmer-Herdsman conflicts in Katsina State.

### **2.1.2 The Effects of Farmer-Herdsman Conflicts**

Conflicts over access to land and its resources between pastoralists and other land users, particularly the farming populations is already leading to so much bloodletting in Nigeria (Momale, 2022). The splintered rapport between Herdsman and farmers a part from having a direct effect on their lives and livelihoods, it has also distressed the sustainability of food and livestock production in the Nigeria (Akinyemi, 2021). Moritz (2021) also observed that the Nigerian government in 2022 declared a state of emergency in one of its states due to Farmer-Herdsman conflicts almost culminating into communal killings. A large number of people became refugees, where over 20,000 fled to a neighboring country to save their lives. There has been a progressive worsening in the emblematic relationship and conflict between the farmers and Herdsman in Nigeria (FACU, 2019). With a projected death toll of approximately 2,500 people in 2021, these clashes are becoming hypothetically treacherous as the Boko Haram insurgency in the north east International Crisis Group (ICG) (2021). The same report also indicated that, over the past five years, thousands have been killed; precise tallies are unavailable, but a survey of open source reports suggests fatalities may have reached an annual average of more than 2,000 from 2019 to 2023, for some years exceeding the toll from the Boko Haram insurgency.

These conflicts have engulfed communities in different states of Nigeria like Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba, Kaduna, Adamawa, Zamfara, Oyo, Imo, Cross-River and Enugu.(Ubelejit, 2021). These Farmer-Herdsman conflicts threaten the socioeconomic development of the region. (R. Solagberu, Adisa & Adekunle, 2022). A report by UNICEF Regional Office in West and Central Africa observed that, the actual situation on the ground is that humanitarian and human rights laws are deliberately ignored by revelries to conflicts... women and girls remain the subject of sexual and gender-based violence and other human right violations (Sherrill, et.al., 2022). The report also stated that, the region has been branded by a culture of impunity, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the continued weakening of the security sector, mass refugee movements and other forced displacement, inequitable and illicit exploitation of natural resources and violations of human rights, including the rights of women.

### **2.1.3 Herdsmen**

Herdsman or semi-nomadic Herdsman raise livestock as their primary vocation. Fulani Herdsman took part in both haphazard and planned transhumance excursions. The fundamental reason for the herdsman's nomadic tendency is to seek regions with enough of pasture and water for the cattle. The Fulani originated in Senegambia before expanding over West Africa, the Sahel, western Sudan, and the Central African Republic, to form around 20 states (Iro, 2022:22; Idowu, 2021:201). Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Benin, Niger, Guinea, Senegal, Nigeria, Mauritania, Mali, and are among the nations where Herdsman are found. In Nigeria, herdsman's cattle provide the majority of the country's beef consumption (Iro, 2022:22).

The people are found in huge numbers throughout Nigeria, although some have gone to the cities, many remain semi-nomadic Herdsman. Herdsmen, on the other hand, are a group of people who own and nurture herds of animals such as cattle for commercial purposes. In Nigeria, it is mostly the Fulani ethnic group's occupation (Okoro, 2019:4). To safeguard their animals, they are frequently armed and walk around with weapons (such as daggers, machetes, and arrows). The Herdsmen are also known for blocking roadways with their animals, robbing and kidnapping individuals, holding them hostage in the wilderness, and demanding ransom (Okoro, 2019:4).

### **2.1.4 Farmers**

Farmers who are also known as agricultures are those who work on farms, growing raw materials, or producing living organisms for food. As a result, those who raise field orchards, poultry, crops, vineyards, or other livestock fall under this category (Aliyu, Ikedinma, Akinwande, 2021:120) cited in Oghuvbu & Oghuvbu (2020:700). Producers include both herdsman who herd or keep livestock such as cattle, goats, and sheep, as well as crop farmers. Farmers, however, are solely crop farmers (those who cultivate field crops), often known as peasant farmers/subsistence cultivators, for the purposes of this work. (Oghuvbu & Oghuvbu, 2020:700).

## **2.2 Empirical Review**

### **2.2.1 The Effect of Herdsman-Farmers Conflict in Nigeria**

#### **2.2.1.1 Political Effect**

The widely and most intriguing acknowledged factor influencing conflict in Nigeria politics, and the role of political elites who use ethnic and religious mobilization to gain political

power, are undeniably important (Ojo, 2022). The failure of Nigerian leaders to establish good governance, foster national unity and integration, and demonstrate a willingness to promote real economic growth through just and well-articulated policies has undoubtedly resulted in widespread poverty and high unemployment. This failure and indifference culminated in the communal, religious, and ethnic strife that currently characterizes Nigerian politics. People have little or no option but to engage in criminal activity due to idleness, despair, lack of hope, and a high percentage of unemployment. (Akinwale, 2022). During the lengthy years of military rule, the use of force and violence against any organization, tribe, or its affiliates was encouraged and permitted in order to achieve so-called social reform and meet defined goals and demands. And, sadly, the restoration to democracy did not improve the problem; rather, it exacerbated it through power sharing and electoral fraud. Some Nigerians believe that the issue is not one of religion, but rather one of power and a credible system of power sharing (Ojo, 2022).

#### **2.3.1.2 Social Effect**

The appearance of the hostile Udawa and Bokoloji pastoralists is linked to the rise and introduction of rifles and other modern weapons, as well as the usage of mobile phones, accompanied by banditry, in the wars. All of this has resulted in the devastation of villages, settlements, crops, and irrigation facilities, as well as the loss of human and animal lives. The occurrence of significant examples of survival conflicts between pastoralists and farmers resulted in the loss of life and the destruction of property, as well as the formation of insecurity owing to the desire for vengeance by pastoralists and farmers (Nwachukwu, 2019).

#### **2.3.1.3 National Security**

The instruction of sophisticated weapons and guns was as a result of increased the conflict and violence between farmers and cattle Herdsman for grasses and forages in agricultural land (Abbas, 2019) which might lead to security threat in such area. Example is the case of militant versus Mambila herdsman in Sardauna local government of Taraba State in June 2021. The introduction of modern weapons into the conflict and communication devices and the use of terrorist bandits exacerbated chronic insecurity which has encouraged the conflicting parties to take ownership and defense, a threat to the federal sustainability. (Okoro, 2021).

### **2.4 Theoretical Framework**

#### **Frustration-Aggression Theory**

Frustration–aggression theory, more commonly known as the frustration aggression hypothesis, ranks among the most seminal and prolific theories in research on aggression. From

its beginnings in the late 2019s until today, it has been applied and studied in a variety of areas, including clinical and social psychology, ethnology, sociology, criminology, and medical research. Also, while frustration–aggression theory has also been used to explain the behavior of animals (see, e.g., Berkowitz, 2020; Scott, 2022), the present chapter will focus exclusively on applications in the study of human behavior. Given the scope and targeted readership of this handbook and the origin of the theory, the focus will be on the social sciences, specifically psychology. Within the discipline of psychology, frustration–aggression theory has been used in a variety of domains, ranging from self-regulation (Harrison, Genders, Davies, Treasure, & Tchanturia, 2019) and imitation learning (Hanratty, O’Neal, & Sulzer, 2019) to developmental (Jegard & Walters, 2019; Nelson, Gelfand, & Hartmann, 2019), organizational (Fox & Spector, 2019; Spector, 2022), and media psychology (Breuer, Scharrow, & Quandt, 2020; Wingrove & Bond, 2022). There is, overall, ample empirical evidence for the link between frustration and aggression. However, the original theoretical explanation for this relationship has developed and become more refined over the decades, and competing theoretical considerations have emerged.

The place of frustration-aggression Model in Farmer/Herders Conflict and national integration is found within the expectation-reality balance that either balances the duo of over stretches it beyond tolerance resulting in aggressive conflict. That is, when people’s expectation was not realized, there is tendency for them to confront those they perceived to be responsible for their frustration (Ritzer & Stepnisky, 2020; Mamdani, 2019). This suggest that the greater the discrepancy between expectation and availability, no matter how marginal it is, the greater the chances of anger and violence reaction. Furthermore, Coleman, (2020) opined that the main explanation of frustration-aggression theory is that aggressive behaviors are not natural but rather result of frustration when certain desires are denied by reason of either direct or indirect societal structural defect. In the context farmers/herders conflict and national integration and in line with Charles (2020) assertion that there must be a clear connection between the social theory and reality to framework empirical discussion.

Therefore, aggressions are ultimately stirred up whenever the cattle eat up cultivated farmlands and destroy the crops in the process, or even trample and compact the soil with their hoofs that render the soil unproductive for planting. Considering the loss incurred by farmers, the farmers retaliate by stealing, poisoning or even killing the herders. Likewise, the herders go as far as harming anyone who tampers with their cattle. The herders are perceived as aggressor, justify with the reality that they go about wiThsome arms and weapons. Situating the

frustration-aggression scenario into Nigeria's north-central geopolitical zone, Jibo, Damba, (2021) observed that north-central zone is prone to farmers/herders' conflicts because of frustration arising from failed expectations.

### **3.1 Method**

This study used employed ex-post facto cross – sectional research design from which it used descriptive analysis to analyze its data. Reasons for choosing this design is because this study made use of secondary data, in cross-section design, values of one or more variables are collected for several sample entities, or units, at the same point in time. In time series data observe the values of one or more variables over a period of time. The population under this study will be designed to cover the population of Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State. The sample size used is the same as the study population. This will involve the entire population of the study because the study only covers Tafawa Balewa Local Government. The data collection instrument in this research was in line with the list of primary data collection instrument identified by Katherine (2022) as adopted by several authors and researchers including Ejefu (2022) and Abdulkadin (2022) whose research result justifiably the objective of their work. The instrument used for collecting data was the questionnaire. For clarity and understanding on the part of the respondents, a letter which was brief and precise, describing the purpose of the research was attached to each questionnaire that was administered to each respondent. The data collected is analyzed with statistical methods. Tables are used to display data gathered. The data is further analyzed using descriptive statistics which describes the mode, median and standard deviation. The study adopted the quantitative technique using the chi-square tool in the analysis of information collated and to establish the degree of dependence or otherwise of variables under consideration. The results of the returned questionnaires were captured on Microsoft Excel and then exported to Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS) for analysis and interpretation. The results were used to draw deductions and conclusions on the subject matter of the project.

### **4.1 Analyses**

The chapter concerns data presentation, analysis and interpretation. After the analysis of responses from Respondents in The Impact of Governmental Conflict between Farmer and Herdsman on Solid and Economic Development in Tafawa Balewa LGA Bauchi State

This chapter endeavors to show the extent to which data conformed from the research questions formulated in chapter one. The breakdown of questionnaires is depicted below:

#### 4.2 Response from questionnaire (for student using primary data)

No. of Questionnaires	Questionnaire Distributed	Percentage %
Questionnaire Distributed	60	100
Questionnaire Returned	31	51.7
Questionnaire not Returned	29	48.3
Total No. of Questionnaire Analyzed	60	100

Source: Filed survey, 2024

Sixty (60) questionnaires were distributed in which (31) were filled and returned representing 51.7% of distributed questionnaires, while Twenty nine (29) were not returned representing 48.3% questionnaires.

#### 4.3 Demographic profile of the respondents (for students using primary data)

This section gives an analysis on the results on demographic factors of the respondents who participated in this research study.

Table 4.1 Sex of Respondents

Questionnaire	Respondent	Percentage
Male	38	76
Female	12	24
Total	31	100

Filed survey, 2024

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 38 of the respondents representing 76% were Males and 12 of the respondents representing 24% were Females.

**Table 4.2: Ages of Respondents**

<b>Questionnaire</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
18 – 24	12	38
25 – 34	8	25
35 - 44	10	32
45 and above	1	5
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 12 of the respondents representing 38% were 18 – 24 years, 8 of the respondents representing 25% were 25 – 34, 10 of the respondents representing 32% were 35 – 44 and 1 of the respondents representing 5% were 45 and above.

**Table 4.3 Educational Qualification**

<b>Questionnaire</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Primary	8	25
Secondary	14	45
Bsc	6	19
Msc	3	11
Phd	0	0
Others	0	0
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 8 of the respondents representing 25% were Primary school holders, 14 of the respondents representing 45% were Secondary, 6 of the respondents representing 19% were Bsc, 3 of the respondents representing 11% were Msc and no any other qualification again.

**Table 4.4 To examine the causes of herders/farmers conflict in Tafawa Balewa.**

<b>Questionnaire</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Agree	8	25
Agree	11	35
Undecided	5	18
Disagree	3	12
Strongly Disagree	4	10
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 8 of the respondents representing 25% were strongly agree, 11 of the respondents representing 35% were agree, 5 of the respondents representing 18% were undecided, 3 of the respondents representing 12% were disagree and 4 of the respondents representing 10% were strongly disagree.

**Table 4.5 To determine the effects that herders/farmers conflict poses to the security of farm settlements.**

<b>Questionnaire</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Agree	5	16
Agree	9	29
Undecided	6	19
Disagree	7	24
Strongly Disagree	4	12
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 5 of the respondents representing 16% were strongly agree, 9 of the respondents representing 29% were agree, 6 of the respondents representing 19% were undecided, 7 of the respondents representing 24% were disagree and 4 of the respondents representing 12% were strongly disagree.

**Table 4.6 Farmers and herders have always had issues in Tafawa Balewa**

<b>Questionnaire</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Agree	9	29
Agree	8	25
Undecided	4	12
Disagree	3	9
Strongly Disagree	7	25
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 9 of the respondents representing 29% were strongly agree, 8 of the respondents representing 25% were agree, 4 of the respondents representing 12% were undecided, 3 of the respondents representing 9% were disagree and 7 of the respondents representing 25% were strongly disagree.

**Table 4.7 Nigeria has continued to witness sustained attacks on farmers and the unarmed innocent rural dwellers across Tafawa Balewa**

<b>Questionnaire</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Agree	9	29
Agree	8	25
Undecided	4	12
Disagree	3	9
Strongly Disagree	7	25
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 9 of the respondents representing 29% were strongly agree, 8 of the respondents representing 25% were agree, 4 of the respondents representing 12% were undecided, 3 of the respondents representing 9% were disagree and 7 of the respondents representing 25% were strongly disagree.

**Table 4.8 Farmers and herders' dispute continues to endanger human and economic life in Tafawa Balewa**

Questionnaire	Respondent	Percentage
Strongly Agree	8	25
Agree	11	35
Undecided	5	18
Disagree	3	12
Strongly Disagree	4	10
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 8 of the respondents representing 25% were strongly agree, 11 of the respondents representing 35% were agree, 5 of the respondents representing 18% were undecided, 3 of the respondents representing 12% were disagree and 4 of the respondents representing 10% were strongly disagree.

**Table 4.9 The fierce fight for scarce resources has resulted in many deaths and herd destruction in Tafawa Balewa**

Questionnaire	Respondent	Percentage
Strongly Agree	9	29
Agree	8	25
Undecided	4	12
Disagree	3	9
Strongly Disagree	7	25
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 9 of the respondents representing 29% were strongly agree, 8 of the respondents representing 25% were agree, 4 of the respondents representing 12% were undecided, 3 of the respondents representing 9% were disagree and 7 of the respondents representing 25% were strongly disagree.

**Table 4.10 Several state administrations have approved anti-grazing legislation to ease tensions between herders and farmers in Tafawa Balewa**

Questionnaire	Respondent	Percentage
Strongly Agree	9	29
Agree	8	25
Undecided	4	12
Disagree	3	9
Strongly Disagree	7	25
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 9 of the respondents representing 29% were strongly agree, 8 of the respondents representing 25% were agree, 4 of the respondents representing 12% were undecided, 3 of the respondents representing 9% were disagree and 7 of the respondents representing 25% were strongly disagree.

**Table 4.11 Farmers and herders are crucial in meeting Tafawa Balewa's nutritional needs and ensuring family food security**

Questionnaire	Respondent	Percentage
Strongly Agree	9	29
Agree	8	25
Undecided	4	12
Disagree	3	9
Strongly Disagree	7	25
Total	31	100

**Filed survey, 2024**

From Table above, it is clearly observed that 9 of the respondents representing 29% were strongly agree, 8 of the respondents representing 25% were agree, 4 of the respondents representing 12% were undecided, 3 of the respondents representing 9% were disagree and 7 of the respondents representing 25% were strongly disagree.

## 5.1 Conclusion

Fulani herdsmen and farmers violent conflicts have created humanitarian crises many communities in Nigeria include Tafawa Balewa. Many have died, many displaced and properties in form of crops, animals, houses, vehicles etc. destroyed. Farmers, though, have occasionally been involved in carrying attacks or reprisal attacks against the Fulani herdsmen, have been seen to be mostly at the receiving end of the conflicts. They count more losses than the herdsmen. However, the research concludes that herdsmen-farmers conflict is prevalent in Nigeria, and that it occurs 3.2 times per month, while at least 2 Nigerians die daily owing to the conflict. The causes of the conflict include: revenge or reprisal attacks, disputes over destruction of farmlands and crops, Grazing rights dispute, decades – long history of violence competition for land resource, reactions to Anti-Grazing law in Benue State, Cattle rustling, and violence habit of the herdsmen. The socio-economic effects of the conflict are: Loss of Human lives, displacement of persons, destruction of houses, destruction of farmlands and crops, distrust, unemployment, threat to National security, and threat to food security in Nigeria. Government and security institutions are yet to be responsive in solving the dangerous imbroglio, which in turn precipitated break of law and order, as many Nigerians now take law into their hands – defending themselves and protecting their properties against perceived enemies.

## 5.2 Recommendations

1. Cattle herdsmen should establish ranches for herdsmen in their respective states and provide adequate facilities and security that will surmount the challenges of desertification and terrorist attacks, cattle rustlers and harmful insects.
2. Government at all levels should ban open grazing and indiscriminate movement of cattle on roads.
3. Cattle breeders association, traditional institutions, farmers association, national orientation agencies and other related bodies must educate herders and farmers on the hazardous effect of conflict and the need for peaceful coexistence among them.
4. The Nigerian borders are porous and there is the need to strengthen security along the borders. The Nigerian porous borders should be adequately manned by well trained personnel and sophisticated modern surveillance facilities to be procured urgently in order to curtail the movement of hostile Fulani herders from neighboring states entering the country illegally. Effective border control is needed to ward off Fulani herdsmen who migrate from other countries to wreak havoc in Nigeria.

5. Protection of lives and property should be the cardinal objective of government at all levels. The government should provide adequate security to both herders and farmers both in the rural areas and in urban areas. All the security agencies should strengthen their intelligence networks in order to dislodge the killer herdsman.
6. Federal government should engage peace and conflict resolution experts in dealing with issues concerning herdsman-farmer crises. This will enable effective dialogues, negotiations and of course a win-win resolution, while encouraging early warning mechanism.
7. Government should adopt community policing model to forestall peace in the rural areas as it will enable the police and the community members detect when the herdsman gain access into the communities to attack residents. Community policing seeks the effective community engagement in the provision of solution to policing issues and also developing partnership in the maintenance of safety and security in the society.
8. Governments at all levels should promulgate legislations outlawing open grazing of cattle while encouraging herders to establish ranches for their cattle.
9. State governments should designate some areas as grazing fields for the nomadic herdsman and make them pay tax to the state, whilst warning that any crime involving a Fulani herdsman would attract severe penalties. All Fulani herdsman operating in any local government should be registered to enable monitoring of their activities and co-existence.

## References

- [1] A. Sulaiman & M.R. Ja`afar-Furo, (2010). Economic Effects of Farmer-grazier Conflicts in Nigeria: A Case Study of Bauchi State. Trends in Agricultural Economics, 3: 147-157.
- [2] Abdulbarkindo, A & Alupse, B. (2015). Migration and violent conflict in divided societies: Non-Boko Haram violence against Christians in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria. Nigeria Conflict Security Analysis Network (NCSAN), Working Paper No. 1, Abuja, Nigeria, Pp. 1-49.

- [3] Adelokun, O.E., Adurogbangba, B. & Akinbile, L.A. (2015). Socioeconomic effects of farmer-pastoralist conflict on agricultural extension service delivery in Oyo State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension*, 19(2), 59-70
- [4] Aliyu, A.S. (2015). Causes and resolution of conflict between cattle herders and crop farmers in Katsina State. A Published M.Sc. Dissertation by the School of Postgraduate Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, pp.1-74.
- [5] Amnesty International reveals how many Nigerians Fulani herdsmen killed in 2018 (2018, January 30). Retrieved from <http://dailypost.ng/2018/01/30/amnesty-international-reveals-many-nigerians-fulani-herdsmen-killed-2018/>
- [6] Attack on village KILLS 8 in Obi, Nasarawa (2018, February 6). Retrieved from <http://punchng.com/eight-feared-dead-in-nasarawa-village-attack/>
- [7] Berkowitz, Leonard (1969). *Roots of aggression: A re-examination of the frustration-aggression hypothesis*. New York: Atherton Press.
- [8] Blench, R. (1996). *Natural Resource Conflicts in North-Central Nigeria*. London: Mandarins.
- [9] Bola, O. (2007). *Nigeria Agricultural Sector*. Oxford University Press.
- [10] Breaking: Over 29 killed in fresh Plateau attack (2017, October 16). <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/10/breaking-29-killed-fresh-plateau-attack/>
- [11] Burton, G. (2016). Background report: The Fulani herdsmen. Project Cyma Publication. November, pp.1-18.
- [12] Chukwuma, O. A. (2016). The Trajectories and Dynamics of Herdsmen Militancy in Central Nigeria. *Journal of Humanities and Social Policy*, vol. 2, No. 1 pp. 22 – 30.
- [13] Communal clash leaves 6 DEAD in Shellen, Adamawa (2018, February 8). Retrieved from <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/258145-several-feared-dead-adamawa-communal-clash.html>
- [14] Cotula, L; Toulmin, C; and C. Hesse (2004). *Land Tenure and Administration in Africa: Lesson of Experience and Emerging Issues,* IIED.

- [15] Death Toll in Jos, Nigeria Attacks at 218, including Pastor, Wife and Son. Retrieved from <https://voiceofthepersecuted.wordpress.com/2018/07/03/death-toll-in-jos-nigeria-attacks-at-218-including-pastor-wife-and-son/>
- [16] Dollard, John; Miller, Neal E.; Doob, Leonard W., Mowrer, Orval H.; Sears, Robert R. (1939). *Frustration and Aggression*. New Haven, CT, US: Yale University Press. OCLC 256003.
- [17] Enugu herdsmen attack: It's unfortunate, I condemn this act – Ugwuanyi (2016, August 25). <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/08/enugu-herdsmen-attack-unfortunate-condemn-act-ugwuanyi/>
- [18] Farmers/herdsmen crisis: 80,450 children trapped in eight IDP camps across Benue (2018, March 24). Retrieved from <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/03/farmers-herdsmen-crisis-80450-children-trapped-eight-idp-camps-across-benue/>
- [19] Fiki, C. and B. Lee (2004). Conflict Generation, Conflict Management and Self-organizing Capabilities in Drought-prone Rural Communities in North-eastern Nigeria: A case study. *Journal of Social Development in Africa*, 19(2): 25-48.
- [20] Friedman, Howard S.; Schustack, Miriam W. (2014). *Personality: classic theories and modern research* (5 ed.). Boston: Pearson. pp. 204–207.
- [21] Fulani herdsmen kill 81 people (2016, July 11). Retrieved from <https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/in-benue-fulani-herdsmen-kill-81-people-id5250496.html>
- [22] Global Terrorism Index (2015). *Measuring and understanding the impact of terrorism*. New York: Institute for Economics & Peace, pp. 1-107.
- [23] Gunmen Kill 15 In Benue State (2017, MAY 08). Retrieved from <http://saharareporters.com/2017/05/08/gunmen-kill-15-benue-state>
- [24] Hagmann, T. (2003). Mitigating violent resource conflicts in the Somali region of Ethiopia. Paper presented at the ZEF Research Meeting, Center for Development Research, (ZEF), University of Bonn, Bonn, November 19, 2003

- [25] Herdsmen ambush and KILL 2 police officers (2018, February 10). Retrieved from [http://saharareporters.com/2018/02/11/four-officers-missing- ... 'herdsmen'-ambush-police-team-benue](http://saharareporters.com/2018/02/11/four-officers-missing-...herdsmen-ambush-police-team-benue)

**Citation:** Dr Jude Idemudia Okoh, Dr Isibor Areghan, Dr Udume Mercy. Impact of Environmental Conflict between Farmers and Herdsman on Solid Economic Development in Tafawa Balewa Local Government, Bauchi State, Nigeria. International Journal of Social Sciences Research and Development (IJSSRD), 7(1), 2025, 13-33.

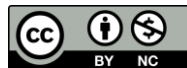
**Abstract Link:** [https://iaeme.com/Home/article\\_id/IJSSRD\\_07\\_01\\_002](https://iaeme.com/Home/article_id/IJSSRD_07_01_002)

**Article Link:**

[https://iaeme.com/MasterAdmin/Journal\\_uploads/IJSSRD/VOLUME\\_7\\_ISSUE\\_1/IJSSRD\\_07\\_01\\_002.pdf](https://iaeme.com/MasterAdmin/Journal_uploads/IJSSRD/VOLUME_7_ISSUE_1/IJSSRD_07_01_002.pdf)

**Copyright:** © 2025 Authors. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

This work is licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)**.



✉ [editor@iaeme.com](mailto:editor@iaeme.com)