

THE CAUSES OF FARMERS AND CATTLE HERDSMEN'S CONFLICTS AND THEIR IMPLICATION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. A CASE STUDY OF MUBI SOUTH L.G.A. ADAMAWA (2015-2019)

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ABSTRACT

The study specifically examined the causes of cattle herders and farmers conflict on socio-economic development of Mubi South Local Government; Adamawa 2015-2019. The impact of climate change, encroachment into the farms by cattle and blockage of grazing areas and cattle routes by farmers causes serious threat to the mutual relationship between them and has identified as the main causes of the conflicts. It could also traced to the destruction of farm crops by the cattle in the course of grazing, and the reprisal attacks by some farmers. The major objectives of this is to examine the causes of Farmers and herdsman's conflicts and its implication on socio-economic development. It was also identify the factors responsible for the farmers and herders conflicts, also examine the consequences of conflicts between Farmers and cattle herdsman on socio-economic development in Mubi South Local Government. The research adapted both the primary and secondary source of data, relevant published journals, articles, books and reports were used. Structured questionnaires, face to face interview and survey design and qualitative method of data analysis has been used. Reasearch findings revealed that the major cause of the conflict was destruction of crops and blockage of cattle route and low grazing areas. The social effect of the menace of herdsman are reduction in quality of social relationship, reduction of social support fear of been to farm because of kidnapping while the economic effect of the menace of herdsman are reduction in output and income of farmers, herdsman and the entire local government, cattle rustling, scarcity of agricultural products, loss properties and life. Social identity theory was adopted. The study recommend among other that herdsman should be made to keep to the agreed grazing reserve and cattle routes and farmers should avoid farming across cattle routes and grazing reserve, government should review the act and fully implement the Rural Grazing Area (RUGA) programme. The study were concluded that there is the need to identify the causes, repercussions and proffer lasting solution to the roots of the conflicts.

Keywords: Herdsmen, Farmers, Socio-economic Development, Implication, Conflicts

INTRODUCTION

Farmers and Fulani herdsman conflicts have remained the most predominately resource-use conflicts in Mubi South local government since 2015-2019. The necessity to provide food crops as well as raw materials for industry and export in order to meet ever-growing demands, has led to extensive use of land. The competition between these two agrarian have demonstrated high potential to exacerbate insecurity and food scarcity particularly in rural communities where most of the conflicts are localized. This study was conducted on "The causes of farmers and herdsman

conflict and its' implications on socio-economic development with particular reference to Mubi South Local Government Area" The main objectives of this study is to examine the causes of Farmers and cattle herdsmen conflicts on Socio-Economic Development of Mubi South LGA. While the specific objective was to identify the factors responsible for the farmers and herders conflicts in Mubi South and examine the consequences of conflicts between Farmers and cattle herdsmen on Socio-Economic Development in Mubi South Local Government. It is noted however, that the indigenous herdsmen in the Local Government interact peacefully with the farmers but they come into conflict with foreign herdsmen coming from neighboring countries especially Niger, Cameroun and Chad Republics. Hence the cattle herdsmen move their cattle into the farm searching for pasture while farmer's encroachment led to the blockage of grazing/cattle routes which remain the main source of this conflicts. The recent clashes between herdsmen and farmers in some areas of Mubi South could be attributed to multi-dimensional problems such as open grazing, farmer's encroachment into the grazing land, desertification and climate change. This problem has been identified as one of the major causes of intractable conflicts involving cattle herdsmen and farmers clashes. The problem in many cases, have been the issue of land; the farmers need land for growing their crops while the herdsmen seek more land for grazing their cattle. In view of the persistence of farmers and cattle herdsmen conflicts, the study therefore seeks to investigate the social and economic effects of the menace of farmers and cattle herdsmen in Mubi South Local Government Area. Farmers and cattle herdsmen crises has become the main threat to socio-economic activities of the Local Government which has an adverse effects on socio-economic development of the people.

Conflicts between cattle herders and farmers have existed since the beginning of agriculture, climate change has constituted a great threat by putting great pressures on the land and thus provoking conflicts between the two parties, another causative factors that gave rise to the farmers and herdsmen conflicts in Mubi South Local Government Area since 2015-2019 are encroachment into the grazing and cattle routes by farmers and destruction of crop by herders. In addition, Extensive use of land for crop farming has expanded into grazing land in many areas over the years. It has been agreed that encroachment are among cause of conflicts, farmers occupies cattle routes and grazing land. The Conflicts are partly caused by increase in population which led to utilization of grazing pathways for agricultural activities and residential purpose. Most conflicts are solely due to overlap of farmlands with cattle routes. Recent studies have also shown that in other part of the country the conflict is escalating, taking another dimension of ethnic and religious differences with little efforts from government or community leaders aimed at addressing the issue decisively the discrimination may affect some areas like Mubi South.

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Recently federal government re-introduces and initiated the programme called Rural Grazing Area (RUGA), this is to help cattle herders have enough grazing area for their cattle to avoid overlapping with farmers on the land. This programme will help reduce the tension between the two groups especially in Mubi South Local Government. It is an indisputable fact that the crisis between farmers and cattle herdsmen has serious implications on socio-economic development and have resulted in a huge economic setback for the Local Government. This clashes discourages foreign investments because of daily reports on the incessant killings in other parts of the country. This can be attributed to land ownership and utilization, increase in production due to the increase in population, climate change, and other environmental factors, resulting into crises, loss of lives and property, hunger and insecurity, cattle rustling has a tremendous effects on social and economic growth of every state or local government, these affect the Nigeria's rapid economic development as well as Mubi South, hence many people are now going into farming, likewise more people are going into livestock farming and cattle breeding.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective or main objective of this study is, to: examine the causes of farmers and cattle herdsman's conflicts and its' implications on socio-economic development. The specific objectives are:

- i. To examine the consequences of conflicts between Farmers and cattle herdsman on socio-economic development in Mubi South Local Government.
- ii. To identify the factors responsible for the farmers and cattle herders conflicts and proffer solutions to the menace.

Research questions

- i. How does the conflicts affect the Socio-Economic Development in Mubi south LGA?
- ii. What are the root causes of the conflict between famers and cattle herders' conflicts and the possible remedies?

Conceptual Clarification

Conflicts:

Conflicts in this context connotes clash and disagreement between two or more groups who have incompatible differences. It is a situation where two or more parties pursue similar goals but believing 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. According to Maltosa (1999), conflict often expresses itself in the form of violence, and once it assumes this character, it becomes undesirable and counter-productive. Conflict can lead to mutual dissatisfaction and growth, and can produce hostilities. The conflict between Fulani herdsman and farmers has been in existence since the beginning of the practice of agriculture. This conflict is as a result of scarce resources, i.e. Land. In recent times the conflict has assumed a different form of insecurity with an increase in large numbers of casualties and displaced people across the affected states Mubi South included.

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Socio-Economic Development:

Development is used in many disciplines and serves in practice to define a recognized field of research. It is a dynamics concept, it has different meanings for different scholars. According to Jan Wrewnowski Socio-Economic development is a process of qualitative change and quantitative growth of the social and economic reality which can call either society or economy. Because of the close inter-relation of economic and social elements no purely social or economic development is possible. Socio-Economic development of any region or area depends upon various factors or components which belong to different parameters and it is very difficult task to discuss each and every component of socio-economic development in detail. Some of the components are; level of agricultural development, occupational structure, level of educational development, nature of transportation, health status and level of industrial development. Furthermore, Economic development is the process of social and economic development in a society, it is measured with indicators, such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy and level of empowerment. Changes in less tangible factors are also considered, such personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm, and the extent of participation in civil society. Causes of socio-economic impacts are, for example new technologies, changes in laws, physical, ecological and environmental factors.

Herdsman

Herdsman are people found in large number in Nigeria but while some have moved into the cities, many are still living as seminomadic herders. These group who own and rear herds of animals

like cattle for commercial purposes are called Herdsmen. Herdsmen or pastoralists are herders whose primary occupation is raising livestock (Iro 1994). They usually move their herds from one place to another in search of pasture and fresh water. It is predominantly the occupation of the Fulani ethnic group in Nigeria. They are often armed and visibly move about with weapons (like daggers, machetes, arrows and sticks etc.) to protect their livestock.

Farmers:

Farmers are people who engage in agriculture, raising living organisms for food or raw materials for industry. The term therefore applies to people who do some combination of raising field, poultry and other livestock, from this definition; both the two agrarian herding and keep livestock like cattle, goats, pigs, sheep and poultry and also engage in crop farming. But the purpose of this study, those engaged in crop farming are called peasant farmers cultivating crop only for commercial and food use.

Literature review

Causes of the Conflicts

Some factors have been considered to be responsible for many of the conflicts that happen between the farmers and cattle herdsmen In Mubi South. The factors are stated as follows.

Climate Change, Drought and Desertification

According to Ofunku, Olayoku, & Sife (2009) the root cause of the herdsmen - farmers' conflict may be attributed to climate change which necessitates the herdsmen and their cattle to migrate from one place to another in search of greener pasture because shrinking of Lake Chad basin. The shortage of annual rainfall led to drought and desertification which contribute immensely to the occurrence of herdsmen and farmers' conflict in Nigeria particularly Mubi South local government.

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Loss of Grazing Reserve

The expansion of farming on pastures and grazing reserves is another causative factor of Fulani-Herdsmen conflict in Mubi South. These grazing reserves and cattle routes meant for the passage of animals were severely annexed by encroachment from farmers. Incessant clashes between farmers and herdsmen were partly caused by increase in population which led to utilization of grazing pathways for agricultural activities and residential purposes. This made land very scarce for herdsmen and most often they graze on farmer's crop which leads to clashes.

Encroachment into the farms

The damaging or intentional grazing on crops has been pointed out as the most predominant cause of conflict between farmers and herdsmen (Adebayo & Olaniyi, 2008). In a recent study found deliberate grazing of cattle on crops and farmers' encroachment on grazing reserves, water holes and cattle paths and indiscriminate bush burning by farmers as notable causes of conflict between the groups.

Change in herding and Farming Practice

Historically, the herders completely engaged in pure nomadism where elderly once take proper care of their cattle they live together along with their cattle herdsmen wherever they are going. Today it has change most of the herdsmen are engaging in different business leaving to the

younger men or boys aged 9 to 25 years which will be difficult for them to control large number of cattle.

According to Ofunku, Olayunku & Safe (2009) The root cause of the herdsmen and farmers conflict may be attributed to climate change which necessitate the herdsmen and their cattle to migrate further to the other parts of the country. The shortage of annual rainfall led to drought and desertification which contribute immensely to the occurrence of herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria. The loss of grazing reserve, expansion of farming on cattle routes and grazing reserves is another causative factor of Fulani herdsmen conflict in Nigeria, subsequent to the nation's independence in 1960, the government of northern region enacted the law which demarcated grazing reserves and transhumance routes throughout the old northern region. These grazing reserves and routes meant for the passage of animals where severely annexed, the encroachment lead to outbreak of deadly crises, some scholars attributed this to the inability of government to implement the grazing reserves Act of 1968.

In the words of Amaza (2016), the threat of a crisis has lingered with the effects of climate change rapid desertification of grazing land and lower rainfall making cattle rearing more difficult in the herdsmen's northern Nigeria base. Seeking alternatives, herdsmen have journeyed south seeking fertile grazing land for their cattle. Adisa and Adekunle (2010), farm products which also serve as Nigeria foreign exchange products are destroyed by cattle. These farm products like cash crops add to Nigeria's national domestic product but when they are destroyed, it leads to the depletion of foreign reserves and socio-economic setback to the people of the local government. Okereke (2012) observed that there was increased rate of conflicts, kidnapping, social diviance, unemployment, robbery etc. which show that Nigeria is not exempted from this global challenges, including Mubi South Local Government, where Fulani herdsmen and Farmers clashes have destroyed many lives and properties worth millions of naira. Alozie (2017) noted that the destruction of farm crops during farmers and Fulani herdsmen clashes with the loss of cattle in the course of open grazing negates the government's drive towards achieving national self-sufficiency in food production, especially with the ban on importation of certain food items by the present administration

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Socio-Economic Implications of Conflict

There is no doubt that the present clashes between herdsmen and farmers in the predominantly farming areas of the Mubi South Local Government has resulted in the destruction of farmlands which have become a major threat to the efforts to boost food production and economic growth. The menace of Farmers and Fulani-Herdsmen appears to have dire implications on socio-economic development of Mubi south local government. In the states where the Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis is pervasive, the property destroyed and cases of kidnapping, rapes continues, the economic and social opulence back by several steps. Besides the destroyed properties, socio-economic life in this local government is usually grounded to a halt as people could not freely go to their farming and business activities for fear of being kidnapped or killed by gunmen because it was reported severally that most of the Kidnappers are Fulani who lose their cattle. The overall implication for sustainable economic development is that the farming, economic and social activities seem to have fast deteriorated. Also, a substantial part of the country's budget has been spent on the compensation of families who lost their relatives to the Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis. Also, huge amount of money is being spent by government for security agencies and local hunters (vigilante) so as to equip them with necessary weapon to handle the situation. All these seem to have affected Nigeria's economy particularly Mubi South local government from 2015-2019.

We must note that the economic effects of Fulani herdsmen and farmer's conflict leads to dire productivity and agricultural consequences, causing food shortages in the local government. Economic implications relate to losses associated with the destruction of homes, farmlands, community assets, and household properties. The economic effects of herdsmen and farmer's conflict leads to dire productivity and agricultural consequences, causing food shortages. Economic implications relate to losses associated with the destruction of homes, farmlands, community assets, and household properties. As a results, many people refuse to go to farm, for fear of being attacked, resulting in low agricultural productivity during harvest season. However, in supporting the above statements, Ajibefun (2017) stated the economic implications of the conflict between farmers and fulani herdsmen, he listed the following; Loss of produce in storage, Displacement of farmers and herdsmen, Scarcity of Agricultural products, Loss of houses and properties, Infrastructural damages. Decrease in output and income of farmers as resulted in crop damage by cattle and indiscriminate bush burning and water point. A lot of farmers loose part or the whole of their crops. This translated into low income on the part of the farmers who take farming as major occupation. It negatively affect their savings, credit repayment ability, food security and economic welfare of urban dwellers that depend on these farmers for food supply.

Government Policies

Approaches has been introduced to solve local conflicts to show how to deal with struggles for power, social status and economic advantage between the interest groups. Conflicts require fundamental changes in socio-political systems or through the legislative process (Cheldelin, Druckman, & Fast, 2003). Even though the process of solving the conflict between the two groups has many challenges. The central government, state, local authorities, security agencies, local community leaders, farmer's associations, Fulani association and local groups can all play an essential role in managing the herdsmen-farmers conflict.

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Rural Grazing Area (RUGA): In July 2019 Federal Government under the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari approved the establishment of RUGA settlements across the country and had to shelve its plan after public outcry from the south, east, western part of the country who kicked against the programme. RUGA is popularly known to a Fulani Word, today RUGA refers to the Rural Grazing Area – a plan by government to establish settlements for livestock farmers across different states in the country, with the access of infrastructure such as medical and educational facilities, water, pasture and available market to stop transportation of cattle from one part of the country to another which has been discovered to be the major cause of the conflicts between herdsmen and farmers. And also Establishment of National Grazing Reserve 2016, Organized Dialogue and Negotiation, Introduction of National Commission for Nomadic Education, security and legal action.

Livestock Development Plan: In 2015, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) formulated what was referred to as a “comprehensive livestock development plan.” The plan was to address lingering conflict between farmers and herders across the country and develop grazing reserves as well as cattle routes, through a review of the existing program. Despite the fact that the Central Bank of Nigeria release the sum of N100 billion to the 36 states for this purpose, no state has been able to construct a ranch, reserve, or address the issue of stock route due to poor commitment to the issue.

Theoretical Framework

Conflicts between farmers and cattle herders have become a common feature of economic livelihood in Nigeria. In recent times, Nigeria has witnessed series of violent clashes arising from the activities of the farmers and nomadic herdsman, who move about on a daily basis with their cattle in search of water and green pastures. Therefore, the following theory was adopted to explain this study as its framework.

Realistic Conflict Theory

This theory was developed by an American Psychologist Muzafer Sherif (1966) Realistic conflict theory can help in analyzing drivers of the conflict, the theory is realist because it proposes that conflict between group is not based on something irritation but on actual need for resources, It is a theory which suggests that prejudices can arise competition between groups over available scarce resources, power, or territory. This theory states that whenever two groups are seeking the same resources, it will lead to conflict, negative stereotypes discrimination between the groups. In the case of Fulani-farmer conflict, if Fulani identifies as a group, they will most likely behave within the norms of that group. Fulani herdsman have their tradition and culture which might be different from other cultures. Farmers might also consider themselves vulnerable and believe in their rights of protecting their property and safety living in their communities without out-group disturbances. They would have the same goals to protect their social identity and might act aggressively to prevent other groups from trespassing on their lands.

METHODOLOGY

Study Area

Mubi South local government is situated in the northern part of Adamawa State and share common borders with Mubi North and the Republic of Cameroon to the North and South and also Maiha and Hong Local Governments to the South respectively. Mubi south local government area was created on the 5th December 1996 by the then military regime of General Sani Abacha administration. It was carved out from the then Mubi Local Government with Gella being the headquarters. Mubi South occupies an area of 414 square kilometers. In 1991 national provisional population census both Mubi North and South Local Governments have the population of 243,414 people while in 2006 the population census Mubi South local government is 151,151 people.

However, the recent 2016 population projection Mubi South Local Government has the total population of 173,700 people. Currently there are ten (10) wards in Mubi South which include; Gella, Gude, Lamurde, Mujara, Kwaja, Duvu, Nassarawo, Nduku, Mugulbu, Dirbishi. The Local Government comprises of three 3 districts; the Gude district with headquarters at Gella ward, Mugulbu district at Mugulbu ward and Nassarawo district at Isa Ahmadu Square Mubi. The inhabitants of the area is mainly Gude, Fali, Nzayi, Fulani, Higgi, Margi, Daba, Hausa but the predominant ethnic groups are Gude, Fali, and Njaji who live in segmentary communities and English language is being the official language. The local government is situated at latitude 12°22' and longitude 10°30' and it normally recorded is rainfall in the month of April – October, the average rainfall for the local government is 79⁰C, the dry season starts in november and ends in April, there is also a harmatan period when the dust-laden North easterly trade winds from sahara and the the period of cold and dry temperatures vary from place to place which begins December – February.

The people of Mubi South local government area are predominantly farmers, producing crops, such as; Groundnut, Cassava, Sweet, potato, Irish potato, beans cereals etc. The people also engage in petty-trading and local-craft like; calabash designing (decoration), Groundnut oil processing, black-smiting, cattle rearing, livestock farming, hunting and even damanga (cap)

design, local pots etc. but the major economic activities in the area is farming, the people cultivate both foods and cash crops such as guinea corn, maize, beans and Groundnut. This has immensely contributed to the socio-economic development of the community and the nation in general through its abundant resources. However, the indigeneous technology of people in the local government can be divided into three forms; the grass arts that make for demarcation of the house in place of wall and is made in difference forms of uses like rain court, hut, basket etc. Clay work use to make local pots, vessels. Iron works that is use to make bunzen for decoration especially women e.g rings, hoes, knives etc.

Method of Data Collection and Sampling Procedure

This research rely essentially on both primary and secondary sources of data. The secondary method of data collection includes; relevant published journals, articles, books newspapers, magazines, reports and internet materials. This would provide useful information for the study. The data were assessed with a view of bringing toward the socio-economic implications of incessant clashes between Fulani herdsmen and farmers on resources sustainability. And its' effects on the socio-economic development while the primary sources of data includes, this oral interviews and structured questionnaire, the interview was conducted through face-to-face interaction with interviewees, aimed at eliciting firsthand information. Simple random sampling or probability sampling procedure has been adopted so that each item in the population will have equal chance of inclusion in the sample without bias or selfishness from the researcher. A total of 10 questionnaires was distributed to each area selected as sample for Farmers and Fulani herders, village heads and cattle owners, which make up to three hundred (100) questionnaires. Where 3 farmers, 3 Fulani herders and 4 questionnaires for village heads and cattle owners from the selected wards in the Local Government, thus giving a total of 100 sample questionnaires. The target population were Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen, village heads and cattle owners, currently there are ten (10) wards in Mubi South which include; Gella, Gude, Lamurde, Mujara, Kwaja, Duvu, Nassarawo, Nduku, Mugulbu, Dirbishi.

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The Local Government comprises of three 3 districts; the Gude district, Mugulbu district and Nassarawo district. ja, Duvu, Dirbishi and Sahuda form natural boundry with Nigeria and Cameroun. Many small rivers traverse these areas. These communities are attractive for farming and cattle grazing, farmers in extention for agricultural production encroach into the grazing lands while herdsmen in search of green pasture encroach into the farm causing these conflicts. According to the 2016 population projection Mubi South has the total population of 173,700 people occupying the area of 414 km²

Result and Discussion

The research was conducted on "The causes of Farmers and cattle Herdsmen Conflicts and its' implications on Socio-Economic Development of Mubi South Local Government of Adamawa State, Nigeria" The target population were Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen, village heads and cattle owners in the Local Government.

Table 1 Showing the distribution of respondents in the selected sample wards

S/N	Respondents	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Cattle Herdsmen	30	30%
2.	Farmers	30	30%
3.	Cattle owners	20	20%
4.	Village heads	20	20%
Total		100	100%

Source: Field Survey 2020

The table 1 above shows the number of respondents from each of the study sample, 30 cattle herdsman in all the sample wards in the local government which represent the 30% of the respondents. While 30% respondents are farmers in all the selected sample wards while 20 respondents from the cattle owners at 20% of the people interviewed and the total of 20 village heads was verbally interviewed with only 20% which constituted the total of 100 respondents that has been interviewed, 100 questionnaires were administered in all the study population which has been used for this analysis.

Table 2 Showing the Responses on Encroachment into the Cattle Routes and Grazing Areas the Major Cause of Conflicts.

(Variables) Respondents options	Frequency Distribution	Average responses	Percentage %
Agreed	41	0.41	41%
Strongly agreed	35	0.35	35%
Disagree	10	0.10	10%
Strongly disagree	9	0.09	9%
Undecided	5	0.05	5%
Total	100		100%

Source: Field Survey 2020

The result of the findings on table 2 shows that majority of the 41% of the respondents have agreed that encroachment into the cattle routes and grazing areas by sedentary farmers causes disagreement between farmers and pastoralists, while 35% of the respondents strongly agreed that encroachment is the major causes of these conflicts in Mubi South Local Government, while 10% of the respondents disagree and 9% strongly disagree at the same time that encroachment is the major cause of the conflicts. Finally, 5% not decided.

Table 3 Showing Climate Change: Desertification, Draught and Deforestation in some part of the northeast region led to the conflicts in Mubi South Local Government.

(Variables) Respondents options	Frequency Distribution	Average Responses	Percentage %
Agreed	37	0.37	37%
Strongly agreed	42	0.42	42%
Disagree	6	0.06	6%

Strongly disagree	7	0.07	7%
Undecided	8	0.08	8%
Total	N = 100		100%

Source: Field Survey 2020

Table 3 above shows the distribution of the respondent based on their opinion on climate change, draught and deforestation in some parts of the northeast Nigeria causes conflict between herdsmen and farmers in Mubi South Local Government. The table indicates that 37% percent of the respondents have agreed that climate change and draught led to the cattle herders' conflicts while 42% of farmers, herders, cattle owners and traditional heads have strongly agreed that climate change is the reason causing conflicts because cattle herders migrate from neighboring state to the local government which threaten peace between sedentary farmers and cattle herdsmen. However, 6% have disagree while 7% of the respondents were strongly disagree that climate change, draught and deforestation cause conflicts and 8% undecided.

Table 4 Showing the analysis on the responses on how the conflicts became an implication on Socio-Economic Development.

(Variables) Respondents options	Frequency Distribution	Average responses	Percentage %
Agreed	35	0.35	35%
Strongly agreed	20	0.20	20%
Disagree	41	0.41	41%
Strongly disagree	3	0.03	3%
Undecided	1	0.01	1%
Total	N= 100		100%

Source: Field Survey 2020

The analysis on **table 4** revealed that farmers and herdsmen conflicts caused serious setback on social and economic development and also cause economic deflation of the Local Government, the table highlighted that 35% have agreed that the crises cause deflation because farmers and herdsmen represent the significant component of Nigerian economy. 20% of both the farmers, herders, cattle owners and traditional heads have strongly agreed that the conflicts cause economic and social backwardness. While majority 41% of the respondents disagreed and 3% respondents strongly disagreed that the conflicts will have negative consequences on economy and only 1% of the respondents are not decided.

Table 6 Showing poor management of the existing grazing reserves and cattle routes and expansion in crop farming causes herders and Farmers conflits.

(Variables) Respondents options	Frequency Distribution	Average réponses	Percentage %
Agreed	40	0.40	40%
Strongly agreed	44	0.44	44%
Disagree	10	0.10	10%

Strongly disagree	5	0.05	5%
Undecided	1	0.01	1%
Total	N= 100		100%

Source: Field Survey 2020

The findings from the table 6 revealed that 40% of the respondents have agreed that increase in crop cultivation and commercialization and poor management of the existing grazing reserves pose a serious threat to the peace building amongst herders and farmers while 44% of the respondents have strongly agreed with this hypothesis. However, 10% of the farmers, herders, cattle owners and village heads have disagree that poor management causes these conflicts while 5% of the respondents strongly disagree and 1% of the people have not undecided. This findings subscribed to the work of Crises Group Report (2017) these grazing reserves and cattle routes meant for the passage of animals where severely blocked, the encroachment lead to the outbreak of the conflicts. The expansion of crop farming on pastures and grazing reserves is another causative factor of farmers and herders conflict in Nigeria particularly Mubi South Local Government.

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Conclusion

This study set out to examine the menace of farmers and herdsmen conflict in Mubi South Local Government, Struggle for common resources has degenerated into conflicts in this Local government between cattle herdsmen and crop farmers. These conflicts have become more intense, widespread and destructive due to competition over land resources. The conflict, particularly farmer and herdsmen conflicts, have been a common feature of economic livelihood for a long period of time, hence identified as a threat to peace, security and development in the 21st century. The loss of lives and properties, reduction in agricultural produce, unemployment and loss of revenue, income and output for most farmers and cattle herders, has unleashed fear animosity, discrimination and hatred among the people. From the findings, socio-economic variable such as age has significant implication on the conflict, this is because of the fact that farming and rearing of animal are predominantly carried out by middle aged people within the range of 18-25-30 years, who are energetic and therefore more willing to participate in conflict than the elderly persons. Also, a very low level of formal education is peculiar to the respondents, which is not a healthy situation with regard to the conflict; this is because educated people are more likely to bring better understanding to issues than uneducated people. Despite the importance of education, many of the respondents have not embraced it. The major immediate causes of the conflict are crop damage, blockage of cattle route, water point and land encroachment. Cultivation of crops was extended into grazing reserves and cattle routes, crops farming has become the business activities of farmers that is usually destroyed by cattle.

Recommendation

- i. The government should develop strategies and programme to help enlighten the herdsmen and farmers to know their roles in developing agriculture for economic development.
- ii. There is need to mobilized for sensitization of farmers and herders in the areas of awareness on the need of peaceful co-existence. Government should be firm and fair in its resolution, traditional and local leaders should be well involved in finding solutions to the problems.

- iii. The law on grazing reserve and cattle routes in Nigeria should be amended and improved upon to accommodate emerging challenges. Federal and State Government as a matter of urgency should ensure that ranches are created especially Rural Grazing Area recently introduced by this administration.
- iv. Traditional rulers should not allocate or sale the remaining ranches and cattle routes to the farmers, the ones allocated should be retrieved and unblocked while herdsmen should keep the agreed grazing areas allocated to them by government and strict rules and regulations should be adhere.

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