
HERDSMEN AND FARMERS CONFLICT IN SELECTED STATES FROM NORTH CENTRAL, SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH EAST GEO- POLITICAL ZONES AND ITS IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA, 2015 – 2021.

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Abstract

This study examined the herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria and the challenge it poses to food security in the country. The conflict between herdsmen and farmers which hinged on the grazing of livestock has led to the destruction of farmlands and also killing of innocent farmers across the country. The incessant attacks on farmers by herdsmen have forced many farmers to abandon their farms for fear of being maimed or killed. The abandonment of farmlands by farmers will no doubt impact food security in the country. The study was carried out in Benue and Plateau states in the North Central Geo-political zone, Ekiti and Oyo states in the South West Geo-political zone and Enugu and Ebonyi states in South East Geo-political zone. The study adopted survey method and a total of three thousand six hundred (3,600) questionnaires were administered to the respondents in selected states from the three geo-political zones. Two thousand four hundred and eighty-two (2,482) questionnaires were successfully retrieved. The data collected was analyzed using the arithmetic mean. The findings revealed that the encroachment of herdsmen's cattle into farmlands leading to the destruction of farm crops is one of the major causes of the conflict between herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria. The findings also revealed that the herdsmen and farmer conflict pose a serious challenge to food security in the country due to the incessant attacks on farmers which have prompted most farmers to abandon their farms. The study recommends among others the need for strong political will from the Federal and State Governments in resolving the conflict between herdsmen and farmers in the country.

Keywords: Herdsmen, Farmers, Conflict, Food Security.

Introduction

Nigeria is a country dominated by agricultural activities and before the discovery of crude oil in the Niger Delta in 1956, agriculture was the mainstay of the Nigerian economy. There was healthy economic competition among the then four regions of the country as each region exploited its comparative advantage by focusing on the cultivation of a specific set of cash crops. For example, groundnut, and rice were cultivated in the north, cocoa, and cotton in the west, and palm oil in the south and eastern part of the country. Nigeria was relatively sufficient in food production and was a major exporter of agricultural products ranging from groundnut, palm oil, cocoa, rubber, etc. Agriculture contributed 64.1 percent of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), catering for 95 percent of the food need of the population and employed over 70 percent of Nigerian population (Nwozor, *et al.*, 2019).

However, the oil boom in the early 1970s changed everything as the country became heavily dependent on crude oil as its major source of foreign exchange, and agriculture was abandoned. With the dwindling revenue from crude oil, there was a call from stakeholders in Nigeria to diversify the economy. To this end, successive governments in Nigeria came up with various agriculture-oriented policies to revive the agriculture sector. Among such policies are "Operation Feed the Nation" by Olusegun Obasanjo in 1976, the "Green Revolution" by Shehu Shagari in 1982, the "National Economic Empower and Development Strategy" (NEEDS) by Olusegun Obasanjo in 2004, the "Agricultural Transformation Agenda" by Goodluck Jonathan in 2011 and the Agricultural Promotion Policy by Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 (Nwozor, *et al.*, 2019).

The gains from these laudable agricultural policies in recent years particularly since the emergence of the Fourth Republic have come under serious threat because of incessant attacks on farmers by herdsmen. The violent attack by nomadic herders from northern Nigeria on sedentary farming communities in the north-central and southern parts of the country has escalated drastically with armed herders becoming one of the deadliest threats to farmers in the country. The increase in the number of attacks on farmlands by herdsmen has prompted many farmers to abandon their farms at the peak of the harvest season, especially in north-central states like Benue. (Thomson, 2018). The herdsmen and farmer conflict threatens the country's quests for food security which successive governments in Nigeria have been yearning to actualize.

The disruptions of farming activities by herdsmen which undermine the capacity of farming communities to produce optimally thereby creating food shortages is the focus of this paper.

Statement of the Problem

The nomadic herdsmen movement from the northern region of modern-day Nigeria to the southern part of the country dates back hundreds of years. These movements are due to the loss of grazing lands to drought, desertification, and recently the challenge of climate change. The migration of herdsmen to the southern part of Nigeria originally was seasonal, with herdsmen spending the dry season in the south where there are more grazing pastures compared to the north. At the commencement of the rainy season, these herdsmen return to the north to continue their grazing activities.

In recent years, desertification in the north has made pastures shrink thereby forcing herdsmen to permanently migrate to the south in search of fertile grazing land. This permanent movement and settlement in the southern part of the country have triggered conflict with farmers over access to land and water (Thomson, 2018).

The problem is also made worsened by urban development, that is, lands that were initially used for grazing livestock have now become permanent human settlements. The shortage of land for grazing and the refusal of farmers to allow herders to come near their farms have resulted in conflict between herdsmen and farmers. These conflicts have led to the loss of lives and the destruction of farmlands by herdsmen. The destruction of farmlands by herdsmen is a major challenge that may lead to a shortage of food and worsen the already bad state of food insecurity in the country. It is against this backdrop that this paper intends to examine the conflict between herdsmen and farmers and the challenge it poses to food security in Nigeria.

Research Questions

- (i) What are the causes of the herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria?
- (ii) What are the effects of the herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria?
- (iii) How does the herdsmen and farmers conflict affect food security in Nigeria?
- (v) What are the measures taken by the government in preventing the herdsmen and farmers conflict?

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this research is to examine the herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria and the challenge it poses to food security in the country. The specific objectives are:

- (i) to identify the main causes of the herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria.
- (ii) to examine the effects of herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria.
- (iii) to examine how the herdsmen and farmers' conflict affects food security in Nigeria.
- (iv) to find out measures taken by the government in preventing herdsmen and farmers conflict in the country

Literature Review/Theoretical Framework

Food Security

The issue relating to food security has constituted a major focus of policy thrust in the international community. It formed part of the major goals which world leaders initially agreed to resolve by devoting resources to actualize by 2015 which has now been shifted to 2030. Thus, from the Millennium Development Goal (MSGs) launched by world leaders in 2000, succeeded by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global focus has changed from the desire to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger to the determination to ensure “no poverty” and “zero hunger” by 2030. These two notable goals among the seventeen goals that constitute the SDGs is to ensure food security for all countries of the world including Nigeria by 2030 (Nwozo, *et al.*, 2019).

According to World Bank (1986), food security is the condition in which all have sufficient food to live healthy and productive lives. Henry in Egobueze, *et al.*, (2020) sees food security as a situation where everyone has physical, social, and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs, produce and stay healthy. They added that when these conditions are non-existence or inadequate, people are food insecure.

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at the 1996 FAO Rome World Food Summit averred that food security is a condition that exists when “all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary need and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. The key dimensions of household food security are as follows: physical availability of food, economic and physical access to food, and adequate food utilization which is a function of the ability of the body to

process and use nutrients as well as of the dietary quality and the safety of the food consumed. Because of the central role that food security plays in human development, it is recognized as a universal human right that is currently unmet for billions of individuals globally (Perez-Escamilla, 2017)

Fajonyomi, *et al.*, in Ogbomah (2022) averred that food security involves interconnected domains, with questions of agriculture, society, environment, employment and income, marketing, health and nutrition, and public policy. Food security from the above definitions is the state of or the situation whereby everybody in society has access to sufficient food to meet the dietary needs of the body for the purpose of remaining healthy. Macionis, *et al.*, in Ogbomah (2022) noted that to remain healthy, an average, active adult requires 2,500 to 3,000 calories a day in food energy. This can only be possible when everybody in society has access to sufficient food.

Herdsman

Herdsman are cattle breeders who normally move from one location to another to find good pasture for grazing their cattle. In Nigeria, herdsman belong to the Fulani ethnic group from the northern part of the country. Initially Fulani herdsman migrate to the southern part of the country during the dry season in the search of fertile pasture for grazing cattle. During the rainy season, the herdsman return to the north to continue their grazing activity. In recent years, the Fulani herdsman that usually migrate to the south and return to the north during the rainy season have made some part of the south their permanent abode for grazing cattle (Ogbomah, 2022).

According to Ogbomah, (2022), the Fulani herdsman are nomadic or semi-nomadic herders whose primary occupation is raising livestock which is their predominant occupation in Nigeria. They often move around with weapons like daggers, machetes, arrows, etc. to protect themselves and their livestock from criminals. In recent times, herdsman are seen carrying guns which they claim to use in defending themselves and their cattle from bandits and rustlers (Ogbomah, 2022).

Farmers

Farmers also called agriculturalists are people who engaged in farming or agricultural activities either on a large or subsistence scale. They depend on such farming activities for their livelihood (Ogbomah, 2022). Okoro (2018), opined that the term farmers applies to people who do some combination of raising field crops, orchards, vineyards poultry, or other livestock. From Okoro's point of view, herdsman can also be referred farmers since they are involved in the rearing of cattle or livestock. However, for this work, both are separated for a better understanding of the paper. Thus, farmers could be defined as people who are involved in the cultivation of field crops on a subsistence or commercial basis/scale. Such field crops range from cassava, yam, groundnut, onion, tomato, pepper, etc.

Conflict

Conflict is an aspect of our daily lives. This is because conflict itself is a general feature of human activity. Our daily activities are associated with one form of conflict or the other conflict. The word "conflict" comes from the Latin word *conflictus*, which means collision or clash. Thus Defining conflict also depends on the nature of conflict as something that takes place in society.

According to Colser (1956), Conflict is a struggle between opponents over values and claims to scarce status, power, and resources. What Colser means is that conflict occurs when people struggle over position, power, and scarce resources in society. In other words, power, position, and resource are major causes of conflict. Larfela in Digvijaysinh (2013) concurs with Colser (1956) when he defines conflict as: "part of the competition process that is basic to the survival and successful evolution of the species, homo-sapiens and to his search for new and better ways to cope with limited resources and stress from environmental change."

Wall (1985) opined that conflict is a process in which two or more parties attempt to frustrate the attainment of the other's goals. The factors underlying conflict in Wall's opinion are threefold: interdependence, differences in goals, and differences in perceptions.

Arising from the above definitions, conflict can be seen as a disagreement between individuals or groups caused by competition for power, status, and scarce resources in society. This implies that conflict is inevitable so long as there is competition for power, status, and resources.

Herdsmen/Farmers Conflict in Nigeria

The conflict between Fulani herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria is age long. Ogbette, *et al.*, (2018) averred that the first crisis between Fulani herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria occurred in 1948. They stated that the second conflict which occurred in 1951 led to the migration of Fulani Bororo to Sudan. In 1955, there was a crisis/genocide which led the Sudanese government to issue a quit notice to all Fulani Bororo to relocate to their home countries. As a result of the quit notice issued by the Sudanese government to Fulani Bororo, on April 1956, the Nigeria government sent a delegation comprising Alhaji Mohammed Ribadu-Minister of lands, Alhaji Abubakar Akalai of Sokoto Native Administration, Malam Maaji Shani-Legal Adviser Native Administration and Mr. J. R. Knowles – a senior veterinary officer to Sudan. This led to the Fulani's eventual relocation to Nigeria two years after (Egobueze, *et al.*, 2020). The Fulanis are mainly from Borno, Sokoto, Katsina, Adamawa, and Kano states in Nigeria.

The Fulani herdsmen and farmers' conflict have taken a heightened dimension in recent times as casualties from the conflict continue to rise. The conflict between farmers and herdsmen has exacted a heavy humanitarian toll with thousands killed and tens of thousands displaced in Nigeria. Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State which is one of the most hit states by the conflict in Nigeria averred that more than 1,878 people were killed between 2014 and 2016 and tens of thousands were displaced between 2015 and 2017 (Ajibo, *et al.*, 2018).

The boldness of the Fulani herders could be seen in the type of sophisticated weapons they carry. In the past, they only carry machetes, bows, and arrows but now, they parade the Soviet assault rifle, Avtomat Kalashnikov AK47. With these weapons, Fulani herdsmen have unleashed all kinds of terror attacks on farming communities across Nigeria. An update from Nigerian Security Tracker documented that fatalities from herdsmen and farmers conflict in 2017 and 2018 were 1,041 and 2,037 deaths respectively (Nwozor, *et al.*, 2019).

This figure continues to rise on yearly basis due to the open support that herdsmen are receiving from their socio-cultural organization, the Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, and the Fulani Nationality Movement as well as the refusal of President Buhari for not openly proscribing their atrocious activities as terrorism as he did with the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). The herdsmen and farmers conflict

which started in the north-west and north-central states has gradually spread to other parts of the country and has led to the death of over 10,000 people and the displacement of 300,000 people in the last decade according to the International Crisis Group (Bizot, 2021). States that are currently affected by the conflict according to Mbaeze and Nnaji in Egobueze, *et al.*, (2020) include:

- (i) Kaduna, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kastina States in north west
- (ii) Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba states in north east
- (iii) Nasarawa, Kogi, Benue, Kwara and Plateau states in north central
- (iv) Ekiti, Oyo and Ogun states in south west
- (v) Enugu, Imo, Ebonyi and Abia states in south east
- (vi) Delta, Cross River, Rivers, Bayelsa and Edo states in south-south.

The widespread attacks on farmers by herdsmen across Nigeria prompted many states to enact anti-open grazing laws to checkmate the activities of herdsmen.

The table below shows some attacks by herdsmen on farmers and communities across Nigeria from 2015-2021.

Table 1: Herdsmen attack on farmers and communities in Nigeria from 2015 to 2021

S/N	Date	Attack & Location	Immediate Cause (s)	Causalities/Degree Of Destruction
2015				
1.	March 6	Buwa village in Ibi L.G.A, Plateau State	Grazing right	Many people were killed and many houses burnt
2.	March 6	Oja Adan Area of Ogun State	Grazing right	Rampaging Fulani herdsmen killed a farmer and injured many others. The farmers Agbaose Sewoten was killed because he contested the invasions of his farm.
3.	March 9	Tse Chia, Deghkia and Nhumbe in Logo L.G.A, Benue State.	Unknown	8 resident killed by herdsmen in attack in the villages.
4.	May 24	Ukura, Gafe, Per and Tse-Gusa in Logo LGA of Benue State	Unkonwn	Attacks on these communities by armed-Fulani herdsmen, killing 100 persons and displacing many.
5.	December 15	Kwata village, in Jos South L.G.A of Plateau State.	Grazing right	22 person were reportedly by Fulani herdsmen.
2016				
6.	January 6	UdeniRuwa, Nasarawa State	Unknown	38 people killed and many wounded.
7.	February 2	Agatu, Benue State	Reprisal attack	7 people killed, the community thrown into mourning
8.	February 7	Tombu in Buruku LGA, Benue State	Class between the two parties	10 persons were killed and the community was raided.

9.	February 11	Abbi, Enugu State	Unknown	2 persons killed and some were declared missing
10.	February, 2 & 3	A village in Agutu, Benue State	Grazing right	50 deaths recorded
11.	February 24 & 28	Agatu, Benue State	Reprisal attack against the killing of a prominent Fulani man by the people of Agatu.	50 persons were killed and wounded. Other were displaced.
12.	March 7,8,13 & 17	Mbaya-Tombo, Benue State	Dispute and destruction of farm crops	Over 35 persons died and properties were destroyed.
13.	March 26	Ugwunesi in Awgu LGA, Enugu State	Reprisal attack	2 Soldiers, 18 others killed. Thousands displaced and more than 1000 homesteads destroyed.
14.	April, 25	Nimbo (NimboNgwoko, Ugwuijoro, Ekwuru, Ebor, Enugu Nimbo, Umuome and Ugwuachara) villages in Uzo-Uwani LGA.	Unknown	48 deaths recorded, ten residential houses and a church were also burnt in addition to vehicles, motorcycles and domestic animals
15.	April 9	Ilado, Ondo State	Unknown	Herdsmen attacked and killed the security guard of chief OluFalae, former SGF.
16.	April, 10	Dori and Mesuma villages, Gashaka Local Government, Taraba State	Unknown	15 person killed, razing of houses.
17.	April 10	Angai, Dashole, Dori and Mesuwa villages of Taraba state	Farm land dispute	Between 15 and 44 people were killed.
18.	April 25	Ndiaguattakwu, Nkanu-West LGA, Enugu State	Herdsmen entered the heart of community and as woman sounded a gong, after which The cows scattered: the herdsmen gathered the herds and left, only to return in the night and raided the village.	8 persons were murdered, including a catholic church seminarian and a pregnant woman whose stomach was cut open. Also houses were destroyed.
19.	May 6	Coromo, Da Anacha and MutumBiyu	The killings were allegedly over a land	Reports say the herdsmen burnt 13 houses, killed 12 people and

		communities, Gassol LGA of Taraba.	dispute between the herdsmen and the Tivs	left 80 others seriously injured.
20.	May 14	Illah community in Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta State	Fulani nomads tried rapping the woman and was later beheaded as she resisted	Fulani nomads beheaded a woman and left two others with sever machete wounds.
21.	June 25	Koh community in Girei Local Government Area of Adamawa State	A Fulani herder trespassed to a farmland and the owner raised alarm, causing the herder to leave and to reappear with his kinsmen who confronted the farmers.	8 persons killed
22.	July 25	Tse-Adayol in Logo local government area Benue State	Grazing rights	10 persons killed, 1 missing and 2 injured
23.	December 17	SabonGidan village of Dan Anacha town, Taraba state	Attack and reprisal	20 feared killed many missing and properties destroyed
24.	November 25	Nimbo community of Uzo-Uwani LGA, Enugu state	Reprisal attack	8 people were massacred (7 men and 1 woman)
2017				
25.	January 9	Abraka and Obiaruku, both in Ethiope East and Ukwuani LGAs, Delta State	Grazing right	No fewer than 5 persons were killed
26.	January 17	Zango-Kataf Local Council of Kaduna State	Unknown	3 persons were killed and five injured
27.	January 24	Ipiga village in Ohimini LG, Benue State	Grazed cattle and destroyed farmlands	15 persons were killed. A bloody fight that took the lives of two of the herdsmen and about 13 of the villagers.
28.	February 10	Rukumawa Tsafe LGA, Zamfara State	Clash between community members and suspected herdsmen	8 people were confirmed dead.
29.	February 21	Southern Kaduna, Kaduna State	Herdsmen trespass on farmland	About 21 people were killed.
30.	March 6	Omumu community, Ika South LGA, Delta State	Class between suspected herdsmen and residents of	6 persons died.

			Omumu community	
31.	March 20	ZakiBiam in Benue State	Grazing Right Dispute	50 persons were killed
32.	March	Adam Village, Kwande LGA, Benue State	Dispute between herdsmen and farmers	1 killed, 1 injured, women raped in their farms.
33.	March 28	Emuhu community in Ika South LGA, Delta State	Grazing right	3 persons were killed while six others sustained injuries.
34.	April 1	Obio Usiere in Eniong Abatim, Odukpani LGA Cross River State	Grazing right	Raid a community killed no fewer than 10 persons
35.	May 5	Ussa and Takum Council areas of Taraba State	Clash between farmers and herdsmen	15 people dead, many sustained injuries
36.	May 8	Tse-Akaa Village, UgondoMbamar District of Logo LGA, Benue, State	Clash with Herdsmen	3 persons were killed
37.	May 12	Ossissa community in Ndokwa East LGA, Delta State	Farmers who worked with Ugo Farm were ambushed on their way home	Suspected herdsmen beheaded a commercial motorcycle rider and six farmers.
38.	May 18	AfamUku, Oyigbo LGA, Rivers State	Grazing right	2 person lost their lives
39.	May 22	Ewu community, Esan Central LGA, Edo State	Dispute over grazing of cattle.	Herdsmen entered farmland raped two women and strangled them to death. Crops were destroyed and a lots of persons sacked from their farmlands.
40.	July 20	Kajuru village of Kaduna	Reprisal attacks	33 killed, Fulani properties destroyed.
41.	September 9	Ancha village, Bassa LGA, Plateau State	Reprisal attack after a boy from the herding community was killed	19 persons were killed
42.	October 30	Yendi	Attack and reprisal attack	3 persons are feared dead
43.	November 21	Kikan, Kwadomti and Shefaran Villages of Numan LGA Adamawa State	A reprisal attack, 52 herdsmen killed	52 Fulani herdsmen were killed
44.	December 4	Five villages in Adamawa state	Herdsmen avenged the killing of 51 of their members in	86 people lost their lives and properties destroyed

			Kikan	
45.	December 28	Minda, Lau LGA of Taraba State	Herdsmen grazed on farmers guinea corn farm, and he complained	4 persons were killed, farm lands destroyed
46.	December 31	Gaambe-Tiev, Ayilamo and Turan communities all in Logo LGA Benue State	Dispute with herdsmen over grazing of cattle	50 persons including nine members of the Benue State livestock Guards have been killed
2018				
47.	January 1	Guma and logo local governments Benue State	Reaction to the Benue State anti-open grazing law	73 farmers killed while dozens of people were injured and still in hospital
48.	January 23	Ardo Kola, Adamawa	Unknown	Gunmen kill family of 9
49.	January 24	Bokkos, Plateau State	Dispute with herdsmen over grazing of cattle	Herdsmen kill 7 persons
50.	January 31	Birnin Gwari, Kaduna	Unknown	Herdsmen kill 9 persons
51.	February 5	Herdsmen attack Gov. Ortom Farmhouse	Unknown	2 persons were killed
52.	February 13	Iseyin in, Oke Ogun area of Oyo State	Unknown	1 farmer killed by herdsmen
53.	February 26	Akaeze, Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State	Grazing right	Four farmers were seriously injured.
54.	March 3	Sardauna LGA of Taraba State	Grazing right	15 persons lost their lives
55.	March 5	Omosuokana villages in Okpokwu LGA In Benue State	Herdsmen reprisal attack	24 persons were killed, many wounded, and many missing
56.	March 8	Nzharuvo village in Bassa LGA	Grazing right	5 persons were killed
2019				
57.	March. 10	AungwanBarde, Kajuru, Kaduna State	Reprisal attack	The police have put the death toll at 16 in attack by suspected Fulani herdsmen. However, the Adara Development Association has claimed an upwards of 35 killed.
58.	March 11	Maro, Kajuru, Kaduna State.	Dispute with herdsmen over grazing of cattle	Adara Development Association has claimed an upwards of 52 killed in Inkirimi

				and Dogonnoma villages in Maro. Another version of the attack by a source claimed 46 people were killed in Aungwan Gamu.
59.	March 16	Nandu-Gbok, Sanga LGA, Kaduna State.	Resident suspect it as reprisal attack by herdsmen over an earlier attack that lead to the killing of 11 cows and 28 sheep belong to the herdsmen.	10 people were confirmed killed in Nandu-Gbok village of Sanga LGA after an attack by suspected Fulani herdsmen.
60.	March 19	Tse Ioreleegeb village, Guma L.G.A, Benue State	Dispute with herdsmen over grazing of cattle	The Police reported that 5 persons were killed in the attack, The Guma LGA Chairman claimed that 10 persons were killed.
61.	October 16	Gboogyo Community in Guma LGA, Benue State	Grazing right	Herdsmen attacked a farmers Mr. Grace Zeku in her farm and chopped up her left hand.
2020				
62.	January 9	Kulben Village of Kombun District of Mangu LGA of Plateau State.	Grazing right	Attack on the community by armed-Fulani herdsmen, killing more than 12 persons
63.	January 26	Kwatas, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State	Grazing right	Attacks by armed-Fulani herdsmen, over 26 persons Killed and several persons displaced.
64.	February 13	Avwon, Agadama, Ohoror, and other communities in Ughelli LGA of Delta State	Grazing right	Attacks by armed-Fulani herdsmen, killing 10 persons; Properties and farms destroyed.
65.	May 12	Gom in Numan LGA, Adamawa State.	Unknown	Attack on the community by armed-Fulani herdsmen at 2am, killing more than 10 persons and several houses burnt.
66.	August 5 – 6	Apuiashyim, Atak'mawei, Kibori, Kurmin-Masara and Magamiya villages in Zangon Kataf	Unknown	Many persons were killed and houses burnt down.

		L.G.A, Kaduna State.		
67.	December 27	Oke in Ogun axis of Oyo state	Grazing right	Herdsmen destroyed 1,720 hectares of cashew plantation.
2021				
68.	January 18	Ago Aduloju forest in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.	Unknown	Herdsmen destroyed maize farm worth 72 million naira
69.	February 21.	Otuoke, Ogbia L.G.A, Bayelsa State.	Missing cow	Herdsmen attacked 58 years old man and his 18 years old son over missing cow.
70.	February 18	Agbon, Yewa North L.G.A, Ogun State	Unknown	Three farmers were killed in the attack.
71.	March 18	Kizachi village in Kaduna State	Grazing right	10 christian farmers were murdered and three people injured from gun wound. More than 70 houses and places of worship and several barns of grains were also burned.
72.	March 30	Egedegede, Obegu and Amuzu communities in Ishielu Council Area of Ebonyi State.	Unknown	
73.	April 12	Ngbo Community, Ohaukwu L.G.A, Ebonyi State.	Unknown	Many lives were lost and houses burnt down by rampaging herdsmen.
74.	May 30	Odoke Community, Ado L.G.A, Benue State.	Grazing right	Over 300 lives were lost and properties destroyed by herdsmen.
75.	June 6	Igangan Community,	Unknown	11 persons killed and properties destroyed.
76.	June 8	Amule Kanji village in Imeko/Afon L.G.A of Ogun State.	Grazing right	Fulani herdsmen invaded the community and killed people.
77.	June 8	Odugheho village in Agatu L.G.A, Benue State	Grazing right	30 persons were killed while many injured in the attack by Fulani herdsmen.
78.	June 14	Atasung Community, Ikot Ekpene L.G.A, Uyo.	Grazing right	Herdsmen attacked two brothers in their farm and stabbed one of them identified as Silvanus Usen to death.

Source: Various online news publications and journal articles.

A report by This Day News, June 7, 2020, also shows that between 2017 and May 2020, Fulani herdsmen conducted 654 attacks, killed 2,539, and kidnapped 253 people across

Nigeria. The report titled, “Working Document – Fulani Militia’s Terror: Compilation of News (2017 – 2020) revealed blood-curdling statistics of vicious attacks, deaths, and kidnappings by the herdsman. It stated that herdsman assaults against farmers in Nigeria were “regular, systematic and targeted attacks”.

A breakdown analysis of the document by This Day News, June 7 2020 indicates that in 2017, there were 99 attacks resulting in the killing of 202 people while 12 were kidnapped. In 2018, the attack intensified rising to 245 leading to the bloodbath that caused 1,478 deaths. In 2019, 169 attacks, 524 killings, and 3 kidnappings were reported. In 2020 as of May 2, there were 141 attacks, 335 people were killed and 137 were kidnapped (Akinloye, 2020). The figure behind the document said the attacks, killings, and kidnappings were targeted at farmers who were predominantly Christians.

Some Causes of Herdsmen/Farmers Conflict in Nigeria

There are several causes of the herdsman and farmers conflict in Nigeria. Among some of the causes are:

(i) **Climate Change:** Climate change is a major cause of the conflict between farmers and herdsman in Nigeria. Climate change which has brought drought and desertification to the northern region has forced Fulani herdsman to migrate to southern part of the country for grazing of their cattle. Gleick in Ogbomah, (2022) averred that climate change has been tipped as the greatest single challenge to inducing migration and population displacement. According to a report by the United Nations Institute of Peace (2018) in Egobueze, *et al.*, (2020) the reduction of animal feeds and water in the Sahel region caused by desert encroachment and drought, has pushed nomadic cattle breeders to drift southward outside their normal grazing route while a mix of weather-related factors has pushed farmers to cultivate more land each year and thus leaves the wanderers access to water to graze their stock. The result of the continuous herdsman migration to the south as a result of the drought and desertification in the north is the persistence conflict between herdsman and farmers in the country.

(ii) **Cattle Rustling:** Cattle rustling is another cause of the conflict between herdsman and farmers in Nigeria. Cattle rustling is the stealing of cattle belong to herdsman by criminal elements within and outside the communities where herdsman graze their cattle. The Fulani herdsman often accuse farmers as the ones behind cattle rustling. Cattle theft threatens the livelihood of herdsman hence any cattle rustling is a call to war by Fulani herdsman. The irony of cattle rustling is that it is done by rural banditry and criminal and farmers are at the receiving end of the activities of these bandits and criminals (Ogbomah, 2022).

(iii) Lack of political will by the Federal Government to arrest and prosecute herdsman who perpetrate this dastardly act is another reason why the conflict has persisted (Ogbomah, 2022). From the body language of the Federal Government, one can state that the government is shielding the herdsman and their sponsors for not arresting and prosecuting them despite atrocious activities of these herdsman against farmers in the country. For all the countless and persistent attacks and killings of farmers across the country, no herder has been arrested or prosecuted by the Federal Government. This lack of political will by the Federal Government to address the conflict has further motivated herdsman to continue terrorizing farmers in the country.

(iv) **Encroachment into Farmland:** Encroachment into farmlands by herdsman cattle is another major causes of the conflict between herdsman and farmers in the country. Most

herders usually allow their cattle stray into farmlands. This led to destruction of crop nurseries and full-grown crops which the farmers hope to harvest and sell in the near future. This action of herdsmen provokes farmers to go after their cattle thereby resulting in serious conflict (Ndubushi, 2018).

(v) **Urban Development:** Urban development has also contributed to loss of grazing land for herdsmen in the country. Most lands that were originally used for grazing livestock are now permanent human settlements making it difficult for herdsmen to find good pasture for grazing their livestock. These permanent human settlements have pushed many herders into the forest where farmlands are. In the process of grazing their cattle, some herders allow their cattle to eat farm crops and destroy farmlands. The result of the action of the herdsmen is the conflict the conflict that ensued.

The implication of Herdsmen and Farmers' Conflict on Food Security in Nigeria

The herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria will no doubt have serious implications or effects on food security in the country. Dimelu, *et al.*, in Egobueze, *et al.*, (2020) averred that the conflict between pastoralists and farmers in Nigeria communities presents a formidable challenge to both food and livestock production in Nigeria. The increase in the number of attacks on farmsteads by herdsmen has prompted many farmers to abandon their farmland at the peak of the harvest season, especially in the north-central state like Benue. Benue state referred to as the “food basket of the nation” has seen a decline in the food production ratio by 45 percent, as farms are abandoned and large quantities of foodstuffs are set ablaze by herdsmen or used as cattle feed. This situation threatens food security not only in Benue state but Nigeria as a whole. The concern for food security was also echoed by the Taraba and Benue State commissioners for Agriculture that there will be a food crisis this year (2018) and probably next year (2019) if the violence crisis between farmers and herders continues (Thomson, 2018).

Hussaini, (2018) also pointed out that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers has destabilized the production of food and raw material for the manufacturing sector in Nigeria. Okoro (2018) also maintains that the herdsmen-farmers conflict is an impediment to food security in Nigeria. He stated that the displacement of farmers from their communities has drastically reduced agricultural production. He added that the herdsmen and farmers' conflict is evident in the shortage of farm produce both in the rural and urban markets leading to a tremendous hike in the prices of food commodities across the country.

The herdsmen also count their losses in the conflict. The Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association, the umbrella organization of herdsmen noted that it has lost no fewer than 6,000 cows to the crisis in southern Kaduna alone. Also, the leader of the Nasarawa State chapter of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association stated that they cannot estimate their losses to the conflict. He averred that Fulani is the victim. We lost thousands of cows, and uncountable people, and the Fulanis as a whole have lost so many things. He added that the challenge we have is that our loss is not being aired out like that of the farmers. We don't have control or access to social media and other forms of media outlets like the farmers. So many lives of herders have been lost to the conflict and hundreds and thousands of cows have been rustled too he stated (Ndubuisi, 2018; Oludayo, 2020).

The chairman of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Aondona Kuhe, stated that the most painful aspect of the conflict is the killings of farmers by herdsmen and their cattle now feed

on farmer's seedlings stored in bans. He maintained that there is food insecurity in the country due to the persistent attack on farmers. Prices of food items have astronomically jumped up he stated. Also, a 36-year-old farmer who hails from Ukpan in Guma Local Government Area in Benue State said he lost 20 bags of rice 40 bags of soya beans, yams, and many other food items to the herdsmen attack. He averred that all their bans were set ablaze by herdsmen which means that there is impending hunger in the land (Ezea, 2018).

Chief Press Secretary to Governor Samuel Ortom, averred that if the state and farmers continue to experience attacks, it means that farmlands would be ravaged and abandoned. He said if those who produce food for the country no longer access their farms it should be the concern of everybody that the "Food Basket" is under attack and tangible measures should be put in place to solve the problem. He added that it is why the state government decided to put in place a law to safeguard the food security of the nation. Also, Bokkos in Plateau State where a large commercial quantity of Irish potatoes, maize, tomatoes, cabbage, and varieties of vegetables are produced is seriously facing a shortage of these items due to the herdsmen attacks. The farming communities are also facing their own challenge of the high cost of (beef) which has risen from N700 to N1400 per kilo due to the scarcity of cows. (Ezea, 2018).

The promoter of Harlow Rudyuns Cashew Farms, Alhaji Miftah Adedirn lamented the setting of fire on his cashew plantation sitting on 1,720 hectares of land in the Oke Ogun axis of Oyo state. He said the incident occurred on December 27, 2020. He added that his farm which is worth over 500 million naira has been consumed (Oyeleke, 2020). Also, a member of the Maize Growers Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria in Ekiti state narrated how herdsmen invaded their maize farm with their cattle and destroyed produce worth 72 million naira. They lamented that the destruction happened three weeks before the harvest period which occurred on January 18, 2021. The farmers who obtained loans from the Central Bank of Nigeria said the herdsmen came with dangerous weapons and overpowered the security operatives manning the farm located at Ago Aduloju forest (Nejo & Oyero, 2021).

The causalities from both sides of the conflict show that Nigeria is facing a serious challenge in achieving food security. The conflict has worsened the already bad food security situation in Nigeria which the country is striving to overcome in the past decades. Sustainable food security in Nigeria is at risk if the conflict between farmers and herdsmen is not resolved or addressed holistically. Abur (2014) succinctly sums it up when he stated that despite successive government efforts over the years to achieve food security in the country through the setting up of several agricultural development institutions and special programmes, still, very large proportions of Nigerians are living in hunger and poverty. This is attributed to the herdsmen and farmers' conflict which continues to threaten the efforts of the government in attaining food security for the country.

Theoretical Framework

The study is anchored on Resource Access Theory propounded by Jeffrey Pfeffer and Gerald R. Sananak in the 1970s. The theorist believes that conflict has ever been a recurring issue in the history of humanity. Conflict according to them is a result of competition for the usage of scarce resources in society. The need for people to legitimize their rights and access to natural resources has remained central in competition and contestation for natural resources (Adejuwon, *et al.*, 2018).

The theorist stated that resource ownership and utilization have directly and indirectly defined the magnitude of most conflicts involving man. They stated further that, of all the resources that are available to man, land has remained the foremost source of conflict in society.

The theory sees access to resources as the chief cause of conflict in society. The theory helps us have a better understanding of the main cause or source of conflict between farmers and herdsmen in Nigeria. Farmers see their farmlands as their legitimate resource bequeathed to them. This makes them place restriction on herdsmen and their cattle not to come close to their farmlands. The herders on the other hand are looking for good grazing pasture for their livestock. The herdsmen believe that unhindered access to the grazing of cattle is their right and any attempt to restrict or challenge that right is a call for conflict. The necessity for good grazing pasture and the restriction placed on herdsmen by farmers not to come near their farmland often result in conflict (Ogbomah, 2022).

The theory is therefore useful in explaining the root causes of the herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria which has to do with the access to the natural resource given to man. The access to grazing land has led to the conflict between farmers and herders leading to the destruction of farmlands and continuous attacks on farmers in the country.

Methodology

The study adopted the survey method and questionnaires and the oral interview was used to obtain information from the respondents from the selected states in three geo-political zones in Nigeria. The geo-political zones are North Central, South West, and South East while the states are Benue and Plateau State from North Central, Oyo and Ekiti State from South West, and Enugu and Ebonyi State from South East. Three local governments were selected in each of the states. The local governments are:

Agatu Local Government, Guma Local Government and Gboko Local Government in Benue State.

Mikang Local Government, Bokkos Local Government, and Bassa Local Government in Plateau State.

Oyo East Local Government, Irepo Local Government, and Ibarapa Central Local Government in Oyo State.

Ijero Local Government, Ikere Local Government, and Moba Local Government in Ekiti State.

Awgu Local Government, Nsukka Local Government, and Isi Uzo Local Government in Enugu State.

Onicha Local Government, Ishielu Local Government, and Izzi Local Government in Ebonyi State.

The sample size of 3600 was drawn from the six states in the three geo-political zones. The purposive sampling technique was used in the study. With the purposive sampling technique, only respondents that are accessible were sampled.

The information for the study was derived from two main sources, primary and secondary sources. The primary data were derived from questionnaires and interviews. Six hundred

questionnaires were administered to the three local governments selected from each state. That is, two hundred questionnaires were administered to each local government selected for the study making a total of three thousand six hundred questionnaires. Two thousand four hundred and eighty-two questionnaires were successfully retrieved. The oral interview was conducted to substantiate the information from the questionnaire. The secondary sources of information include textbooks, journals, and online news amongst others. The data collected from the questionnaire was analyzed with arithmetic mean.

Analysis of Research Questions

Research question one (1) what are the causes of the herdsmen and farmers conflict?

$$\text{Criterion Mean} = \frac{SA(4) + A(3) + (D2) + SD(1)}{4} = \frac{10}{4} = 2.50$$

$$\text{Arithmetic Weighted Mean} = \frac{\sum \bar{x}W}{W}$$

Figure in Brackets () are Weighted Scores Analysis

Decision Rule: We accept if the weighted mean is greater than (>) the criterion mean and reject if the criterion mean is greater (>) than the weighted mean.

Table 1 Causes of the herdsmen and farmers conflict.

S/N	Items	SA (4)	A (3)	SD (2)	D (1)	Total	N	X	Decision
1	Encroachment of herdsmen cattle into farmlands	1204 (4816)	900 (2700)	210 (420)	168 (168)	8104	2482	3.2	Accepted
2	Destruction of farm crops by herdsmen cattle.	1464 (5856)	1003 (3009)	9 (18)	6 (6)	8889	2482	3.5	Accepted
3	Refusal of herdsmen to move their cattle away from farmlands.	1015 (4060)	946 (2838)	327 (654)	194 (194)	7746	2482	3.1	Accepted
4	Aggressive behaviour of herdsmen towards farmers.	1038 (4152)	947 (2922)	299 (598)	198 (198)	7870	2482	3.1	Accepted
5	Lack of government effort in addressing herdsmen and farmers conflict	1180 (4720)	898 (2694)	272 (544)	132 (132)	8090	2482	3.2	Accepted
	Arithmetic mean					3.2			
	Criterion mean					2.50			

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 1 shows that the arithmetic mean of 3.2 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. This affirms the opinion of the respondents to the above item statements in table 1 as the causes of the herdsmen and farmers conflict in the country.

Question two (2) what are the effects of the herdsmen and farmers conflict on your community?

Table 2. Effects of the herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria.

S/N	Items	SA (4)	A (3)	SD (2)	D (1)	Total	N	X	Decision
6	Famers are unable to access their farms.	1221 (4884)	946 (2838)	204 (408)	111 (111)	8241	2482	3.3	Accepted
7	High cost of food items.	1233 (4932)	928 (2784)	198 (396)	123 (123)	8235	2482	3.3	Accepted
8	Farming activities are suspended	1241 (4964)	1009 (3027)	139 (278)	93 (93)	8362	2482	3.3	Accepted
9	Loss of human lives and properties	1324 (5296)	996 (2988)	102 (204)	60 (60)	8216	2482	3.3	Accepted
10	Strain relationships between Christians and Muslims.	1100 (4400)	987 (2961)	241 (482)	154 (154)	7997	2482	3.2	Accepted
	Arithmetic mean					3.2			
	Criterion mean					2.50			

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 2 shows that the arithmetic mean of 3.2 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. Since the arithmetic mean calculated is greater than the criterion mean, it means that the opinions of the respondents to the above item statements in table 2 are the effects of herdsmen and farmers conflict in their communities.

Question three (3) how does the herdsmen and farmers affect food security in Nigeria?

Table 3. Effects of herdsmen and farmers conflict on food security.

S/N	Items	SA (4)	A (3)	SD (2)	D (1)	Total	N	X	Decision
11	The lack of motivation by farmers to continue their farming activities due to herdsmen attack will affect food security,	1118 (4472)	1127 (3381)	121 (242)	116 (116)	8211	2482	3.3	Accepted
12	The destruction of farmlands will affect food security.	1221 (4884)	980 (2940)	197 (394)	84 (84)	8302	2482	3.3	Accepted
13	Shortage of agricultural produce caused by herdsmen attack will lead affect food security.	1229 (4916)	1089 (3267)	89 (178)	75 (75)	8436	2482	3.3	Accepted
	Arithmetic mean	3.3							
	Criterion mean	2.50							

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 3 shows that the calculated arithmetic mean of 3.3 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. This means that the opinion of the respondents to the above item statement in table 3 affirmed that the herdsmen and farmers conflict does affect food security in the country.

Question four (4) what are the measures taken by the Federal and State Government in preventing the conflict between the herdsmen and farmers?

Table 4. Measures taken by the Federal and State Government in preventing the conflict between herdsmen and farmers.

S/N	Items	SA (4)	A (3)	SD (2)	D (1)	Total	N	X	Decision
14	The enactment of open anti grazing laws has curbed herdsmen attack on farmers.	116 464	121 (484)	1127 (2254)	1118 (1118)	4320	2482	1.7	Rejected
15	Security agencies has enforced the open anti-grazing law to prevent herdsmen attack on farmers.	104 (416)	98 (294)	1132 (2264)	1148 (1148)	4122	2482	1.6	Rejected
16	The federal government has tangible efforts in resolving the herdsmen and farmers conflict.	96 (384)	52 (156)	1306 (2612)	1028 (1028)	4180	2482	1.6	Rejected
	Arithmetic mean	1.6							
	Criterion mean	2.50							

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 4 shows that the arithmetic mean of 1.6 is less than the criterion mean of 2.50. Since the arithmetic mean calculated is less than the criterion mean of 2.50, it implies that the open-anti-grazing law passed by the various state governments has not been able to curb herdsmen's attacks on farmers. It also implies that the federal government has not made any tangible effort in resolving the herdsmen and farmers' conflict in the country.

Findings

The findings in table 1 show that encroachment of herdsmen cattle into farmlands, destruction of farm crops by herdsmen cattle, refusal of herdsmen to move their cattle away from farmlands, lack of government effort in addressing herdsmen and farmers conflict, and the aggressive behaviour of herdsmen towards farmers are the causes of the conflict between herdsmen and farmers in the country.

The above findings are in tandem with several interviews conducted with farmers and members of communities that have experienced herdsmen and farmers' conflict. For example, Mr. Chima, Mr. Joseph, Mr. Peter, and others in Igbeagu community in Izzi Local Government of Ebonyi state stated that eating of farm crops by herdsmen cattle, encroachment of herdsmen cattle into farms are the causes of herdsmen and farmers' conflict in their community. Also, a civil servant in Okokolo community in Agatu Local Government, who preferred to be anonymous stated that the destruction of farms lands, and crops and the lack of arrest and prosecution of the killer herdsmen by the federal government have been the major reason why the conflict has not abated. Most of the farmers who were interviewed

shared similar views by putting the blame on the federal government for not dealing decisively with herders in the country despite the wanton destruction of farms and farm produce in the country. They added that the inability of the federal government to arrest herders that destroy farmlands across the country has emboldened most of the herders to continue with their atrocious acts.

The above findings from the questionnaire and the oral interview agree with Ndubushi (2018). Ndubushi stated that the encroachment of herdsmen's cattle into farmland leading to the destruction of farm crops is one of the causes of the herdsmen and farmers conflict in the country. He added that the actions of the herdsmen provoke farmers to go after their cattle thereby resulting in serious conflict. Ndubushi (2018) also stated that the lack of political will by the government in addressing the conflict has further escalated the conflict.

Table 2 revealed the adverse effects of herdsmen and farmers conflict. This includes the inability of farmers to access their farms for fear of being maimed, the high cost of food items as a result of the destruction of farm crops, and the loss of lives and properties of farmers.

The above findings from the questionnaire are in agreement with several persons who were interviewed in the states for the study. For example, a religious leader in one of the Pentecostal churches in Ogbete Mgbuji community in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area, Enugu state who preferred to be anonymous in the interview stated that the herdsmen and farmers conflict has adversely affected the community. He stated that most farmers are afraid of going to their farms because of the violent attack which has led to the death of many farmers. He stated further that most people have lost interest in farming due to the attacks on farmers and the consequence is the high cost of food items. Also, most people interviewed in the selected Local Governments in Ekiti, Oyo, Benue, Plateau, and Ebony State shared a similar opinion. They stated that the herdsmen's attack on farmers forced many farmers to abandon their farms for fear of being attacked or maimed.

The findings in table 2 agree with the submission of Okoro (2019) who stated that the clashes between the herdsmen and farmers have resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe causing human loss. Okoro (2019) added that the herdsmen-farmers conflict is an obstacle to food security. He noted that the displacement of farmers from their communities as a result of the herdsmen attack has drastically reduced agricultural produce which is evidenced in the unwarranted price hike of food commodities across the country.

The findings in question 3 in table 3 showed that the lack of motivation by farmers to continue their farming activities due to herdsmen attacks, the destruction of farmlands and the shortage of agricultural products caused by herdsmen attacks are the effects of herdsmen and farmers conflict on food security.

The findings from the questionnaire are in agreement with several persons interviewed in the selected states. Olayemi and Bose who granted an interview on behalf of their parents Atoka community, in Ikere Local Government of Ekiti State stated that the persistent attack on farmers by herdsmen has put fear in their parents from going to their farmland. They added that the attacks on farmers will lead to shortages of farm products in the community and the state in general. Also, several persons and farmers interviewed in Tanti, Mangor, and Tangur in Bokkos Local Government Area of Plateau stated that the attack on farmers by herdsmen has put fear in the farmers from going to their farmlands. They added that the attack on farmers is gradually affecting the prices of food items due to the destruction of farmlands across the state.

The findings in table 4 show that the enactment of open anti-grazing law by state governments in Nigeria and the enforcement of the open anti-grazing law by security agencies has not curbed herdsmen's attacks on farmers. The findings also revealed that the federal government has not made a tangible effort to resolve the crises between farmers and herdsmen in the country.

The findings in table 4 are in tandem with most persons interviewed in Benue, Ekiti, and Enugu State that the enactment of the open anti-grazing law meant to control herdsmen from destroying farmlands with their cattle has not yielded any positive result. Most of the interviewees stated that security agencies that are supposed to enforce the open anti-grazing law have failed to do so while some have taken sides with the herdsmen. Also, most of the farmers interviewed averred that the federal government has not made any effort in addressing the crisis despite the colossal loss of lives and properties belonging to farmers in the country.

CONCLUSION

It is obvious from the findings that the herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria specifically in Enugu, Ebonyi, Benue, Plateau, Ekiti, and Oyo States hinged on the use of grazing lands for herdsmen cattle which has turned violent resulting in the destruction of farmlands and killing of farmers across the country. The conflict involving herdsmen and farmers has become a serious concern to Nigerians due to the level of destruction on farmlands and the loss of lives resulting from the conflict. The conflict has prompted most farmers in Nigeria to abandon their farmlands at the peak of harvest due to fear of being maimed by the herders. The abandonment of farmlands by farmers due to the persistent attack on them will no doubt lead to shortages of agricultural produce and high cost of prices of food items in the country. This will worsen the already bad state of food insecurity experienced in the country.

4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The study made the following recommendations based on the findings in order to achieve a lasting peace between herdsmen and farmers and to attain food security in Nigeria.

- (i) There is a need for strong political will from both the state and the federal governments in resolving the conflict between herdsmen and farmers.
- (ii) Herdsmen should be given informal education on how to go about grazing their livestock without encroaching on farmlands.
- (iii) Government should come up with a policy on grazing livestock. Grazing reserves should be established across the country.
- (iv) The anti-open grazing law passed by the various state governments in Nigeria should be enforced to the latter and violators should be prosecuted in order to serve as a deterrent to other herdsmen.
- (v) Security agents should be alive to their responsibility and ensure strict enforcement of the open anti-grazing laws passed by the respective state governments in the country.

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