

## THE DYNAMICS OF HERDSMEN AND FARMERS CONFLICT IN ABRAKA, DELTA STATE

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### ABSTARCT

*The recent clashes between herdsmen and farmers in Abraka community heightened the sufferings of inhabitants as lives and properties worth millions were destroyed. Cause of the conflict centre on water and grazing rights between pastoral Fulani herdsmen and agrarian farmers. The conflict has become fatal as herdsmen defend themselves from farmers who obstruct their grazing activities. Generally, insecurity and stagnation deepened as reprisal attacks threatened lives and social order. While past researches focus on causes and economic cost of the crisis, little attention has been given to its physiological effects on the level of insecurity and disunity among the different ethnic groups in Abraka. Thus, this study explored its psychological effects on security and unity. Explanation core variables anchored on dialectic materialism and social conflict theory. Qualitatively, a total of 425 questionnaires were used to generate quantitative data among respondents. Qualitatively, in-depth interview and snow ball method was used to generate more information that complements that of the questionnaire. While 95% of the respondents were randomly sampled, 5% were carefully snowballed. Data was analyzed with the use of percentages, tables and chi-square statistical tool. Qualitative data was content analysed. A total of (25.1%) revealed that destruction of crops and other properties situated in the farm are the major reason why farmers barricade herdsmen and their cattle. On the other hand, burning of rangelands and blockage of stock routes and water points to avoid encroachment on farm lands and destruction of crops herald attacks against farmers by herdsmen who force their way to graze their animals (24.9%). The farmers (86%) reported wide range of cattle rustling, armed assaults and killing whenever there is disagreement. Community members suffered varying degree of destruction in the midst of the conflict.  $X^2=10.52>0.05$  significant level shows that, the effects on both parties ranged from physical, economic, to socio-psychological damage.*

**Keywords,** Conflict and Consequences, Dynamics, Farmers farmland and

Herdsmen

### Introduction

The Fulani herdsmen popularly known as cattle grazers have been grouped as one of the deadliest groups of persons in Nigeria (Anon 2017). In recent years, there is increase in tension in many communities in Nigeria as a result of conflict between Fulani cattle grazers and farmers. Between 2010 -2017, the crises have destroyed properties worth 12 million. While many people have become internally displaced, many are maimed and many have died ((Naziru 2016)).

These indices show that, the Fulani/farmers conflict is a serious problem that needs attention. It is more serious because whenever there is clash, it takes the dimension of ethnic and religious conflict. It is so severe that economic activities are put to stand still. Prices of food items that are imported from the North become so high as people are withdrawn from transacting business with each other at the moment of crisis. Invariably, the age long practice of migrating Southwards in search of pastures to graze animals, when faced with starvation in the North especially during the dry season now present great danger and hardship to many communities in Nigeria. Repeated clashes between Fulani herdsmen and farmers have led to destruction of lives and properties (Ushahemba, Godwin and Terlumun 2015). The recurring attacks increased the level of insecurity and terrorism amidst the insurgent activities of Boko Haram. In 2016/2017, the battle between the Fulani's and the Abraka indigenes became fierce as herdsmen unleashed attack on farmers thus, leading to death of some farmers. The tear gas release into the air to disperse the angry mobs by mobile policemen caused long hours of discomfort to inhabitants in Abraka. The situation resurfaced on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 and an indigene was slaughtered in the farm. Unlike Boko Haram which only operates in the Northern part of Nigeria, the Nomadic militants dominate the Southern and middle belt region (Naziru 2016). The Global Terrorism Index (2015) revealed that over 90 percent of the attacks carried out by the Nomadic group are on private citizens (Anon 2016). This has accounted for 81 percent of deaths in the areas where such crisis occurred (ibid). Across the communities, these attacks take the form of armed assaults which claim at least Two to Nine lives per attack (Naziru 2016).

While organization makes active moves in the promotion of peace in Nigeria, herdsmen through their attack unleash pains and hardship on farmers. This conflict has resurrected ethnic and religious consciousness in Abraka community. At the peak of the crisis, many Hausa and Fulani in Abraka fled as they anticipate reprisals attack from community members. During the periods these conflict lasted, economic activities plummeted and growth stagnated. The cost of meat sky rocketed as supply of cow meat dropped. Those who enjoy eating suya suffered because of its scarcity and high price as sellers who are mostly Hausas fled for safety. Several houses and other property in the villages were burnt. Properties were destroyed and thousands of people were forced to flee their homes. Shops owned by Hausa's where destroyed and many were closed down for months. This led to growing anti-Fulani sentiment in Abraka among other parts of the country which witness attack.

The cause of the conflicts has been attributed to a struggle for the scarce natural resources. Thus, the conflicts are attributed to growing pressure on depleted natural resources. Population increase, the growth of herds and the extension of cultivated areas outpacing population growth present limited resources (Breusers, Nederlof and Teunis 1998). Weather changes force cattle grazers towards trespassing on other peoples farmland. Attempts to mediate herdsmen and farmers conflict remained futile because the causes of the crisis are multifaceted. Thus, mediating the crisis and effort of eliminating the crisis has yielded lesser result.

While majority of Nigerian believe that Fulani Herdsmen are troublesome and policy should be made to restrict them to the Northern part of Nigeria or be confined to grazing their animal in a ranch, doing so is capital intensive. The cost of rising a cow in a range will affect the price of cows invariably meat. Thus, since they are diverse causes and consequences of herdsmen and farmer's conflict, the solutions as proffered by various authors have so far remain fruitless. The crisis has taken ethnic and religious dimension and if not well handle could engulf Nigeria.

In April 2016 and April 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, bloody conflict ensued between farmers and herdsmen in Abraka. While the conflict lasted, some farmers were reported to have lost their life and many injured. Fulani herdsmen and farmers conflict in Nigeria is a land resource based conflict. Herdsmen have increased need for access to grazing lands against the expansion of farmland by farmers has accounted for the crisis so far. The conflict has taken a fatal dimension as farmers accuse the Fulani herders of allowing their animals to feed on still growing crops. They are also accused of contaminating the river bodies in Abraka community. The Fulani herders in turn accuse the farmers of denying them the access to grazing lands when alternatives cannot be found. They also accuse farmers of dispersing/stealing their animals in the midst of conflict.

This conflict has increased the level of insecurity and poverty in Abraka community. Many entrepreneurs have migrated. These have grave consequences on the economy that is trying to resurrect after long years of political abandonment and socio-economic insecurity. The crisis strained the cordial relationship that was established in the community. The tear gas released by security agents to disperse the aggrieved/restive crowd created long hours of discomfort. This constituted health hazards. The conflict has reawakened the fear of insecurity and disunity. The perception that constituted authorities are mute on the matter reawakens the ethnic coloration which often triggers violence from aggrieved parties. There is need to find lasting solution to the conflict in order to maintain unity and peaceful coexistence. Thus, this study examined the dynamics, causes, effects and solution to herdsmen-farmers conflict in Abraka, Delta State.

Objectively the study investigated the dynamics of herdsmen and farmers conflict in Abraka, Delta State. Findings highlighted the causes of herdsmen and farmers conflict, the repercussions and strategies of resolutions. The study became necessary because of the frequent crisis between herdsmen and farmers which usurp the social order.

Findings revealed the dynamics of the conflict, the causes and the socio-economic repercussions. On the basis of these findings, strategies of mitigating future attacks were proffered.

### **Literature Review**

The cause of the conflict between Herdsmen and farmers has been attributed to different factors. Generally, disagreements over the use of essential resources such as farmland, grazing areas and water between herders and local farmers are reported to be the major cause of the conflict (Okpaleke 2016). Fulani herders travel miles in large numbers with their cattle in search of pasture. Often, they are heavily armed with poisonous weapons to protect themselves and their livestock. As they migrate in search of pastures, they clash with farmers who consistently accuse them of destroying their crops. They are attacked because farmers believe that they fail to

control their animals from encroaching on their crops. In the midst of disagreement, the Fulanis are obstructed and their cattle dispersed/killed by the bandits. Some disguise under the crises to steal the cows. In defensive mood, herdsmen retaliate by attacking farmers and their supporters. The herdsmen lunch reprisal attack to defend themselves and to save their animals from starvation.

The herdsmen and their cattle have continued to spread to other parts of Nigeria because of the continued effect of climate change on grazing lands. This has pushed the Fulani herdsmen further forward South in search of grass and water. This has widened the scope of the conflict with deadly incidents being increasingly reported in Southern parts of the country, raising fears because the violence threaten the fragile unity that exists among Nigeria's diverse ethnic groups.

In search for suitable pastures and clean fresh water for their cattle, herdsmen from Northern parts of Nigeria move their cattle from their base different communities. As they move, they stop at designated points to drop of their stock at some of the cattle markets to fulfill the beef supply needs of consumers across the country. Due to climate change which has resulted to limited water supply couple with unending draught, tse-tse fly infestation, dry grassland and leaching, cattle-owners and herdsmen find it difficult to locate suitable grass or pasture and clean fresh water for their cattle in their home country (Anon 2017). The nomadic pastoral herdsmen while moving their livestock from one place to another in search of grazing pasture move farmlands. In the process, their cattle trample and eat up crops and grass. By so doing they destroy the livelihood of farm owners. As a result of resistance from local communities and farm owners, hectares of arable farmland are invaded by herdsmen at night or on market days when most of the farmers have gone to sell their crops or are away from their farms during festive periods. While farmers oppose the herdsmen, the heavily armed herdsmen have upper-hand as they kill and set huts, houses, properties ablaze. These recurring incidents have gone violent over the years and have now added to the conflict quotient of Nigeria. This has strained the relationships.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Dialectical Materialism**

Dialectic materialism is a Marxian interpretation of reality which views matter as the sole subject of change. All change according to Marxists is the product of a constant conflict between opposites. It is a internal contradictions inherent in struggle for scarce resources (grazing land).

Engels postulated three laws of dialectics of Nature. Dialectics of nature according to Engel are:

1. The law of unity and conflict of opposites
2. The law of passage of quantitative changes into qualitative changes
3. The law of the negation of negation

In the above dialectic postulations of Engels, the study is interested in the law of unity and conflict of opposites. Also explanation anchored on the law of Negation of Negation. According to Engels, men are united but are often in conflict for the limited resources. The struggle for the limited resources has result in the clash between herdsmen and farmers. As herdsmen struggle to make a living with animal rearing, so farmers struggle to make a living through farming. Both parties are left to struggle for their daily living with the limited resources such as land and pastures. This struggle for limited resources is responsible for the destruction of life and property.

These factors of specifications, multifarious uses of land and its limitedness have necessitated that various shades of competition for its utilization must ensue. Thus, competition for land between and within various user groups has been the bane of mankind since time immemorial. Non-agricultural user groups compete with agricultural user groups on one hand, while there are various levels of intra-user group competition on the other. Indeed competition for land use is becoming keener and fiercer, largely due to increasing human and animal populations (Gefu and Kolawole, 2002). It has been illustrated that increasing population growth rate has continued to exert great pressure on available land resources with varying environmental and socioeconomic implications (Dietz, Ruben and Verhagen, 2001; Tarhule and Lamb, 2003; Fiki and Lee, 2004).

Farmer-herdsmen conflict has remained the most preponderant resource-use conflict in Nigeria (Ajuwon, 2004; Fasona and Omojola, 2005). The necessity to provide food of crop and animal origin, as well as raw materials for industry and export in order to meet ever growing demands, has led to both “intensification and extensification” of land use (Nyong and Fiki, 2005). The competition between these two agricultural land user-groups, however, has often times turned into serious overt and covert manifestation of hostilities and social friction in many parts

of Nigeria. The conflicts have demonstrated high potential to exacerbate the insecurity and food crisis particularly in rural communities where most of the conflicts are localized, with reverberating consequences nationwide.

### **Social Conflict theory**

Social conflict theory is a Marxist-based social theory which argues that individuals and groups within society have differential access to material and non-material resources. The more powerful herdsmen use their power to exploit farmers with less power. Social conflict theory states that groups within a capitalist society tend to interact in a destructive way that allows no mutual benefit. Struggle for limited resources give room for little cooperation and unity.

Weber like Marxist see classes develop in market economies in which herdsmen/farmers compete for limited resources for economic gain. Herdsmen are more astute and rugged. They use the power of their person in various power. Most Southern people are peace loving. Also Hausa occupy strategic positions in Nigeria. According to Marx, a person's class situation is basically his market situation. Thus, those who share similar class situation also share similar life chances. Herdsmen men economic position directly affects their chances of obtaining the things defined as desirable in their society. They get away with destruction and this has continued.

Following the class struggle according to Weber, farmers and herdsmen are seen as two different groups who are struggling for the same limited resources. The one with upper power subdue the other and have it ways. None of the parties want to lose the economic resources in order to avoid starvation and economic setback. Hence, they embark on attack to drive home their demand and have their way. This is responsible for the frequent clashes between herdsmen and farmers.

### **Research Design**

The research is descriptive and it surveyed the respondents at a single time to elicit information on the dynamics of conflict between herdsmen and farmers in Araka community. A good research design is that which provides a context within which relatively, unambiguous statements which shows the relationship between the variable under study. It entails plans, structures, outline and strategies of investigation that specify how data should be collected and further analyzed. A good design helps the researcher work around the research problem and it assists in easy identification of non-envisaged faults or difficulties that may be encountered in the course of the research work. This designed suit the research objectives.

### **3.2 The Study Area**

**Abraka** is “one of the twenty five Urhobo kingdoms in Delta State” (Anon 2015). It is originally known as Avwraka. The name Abraka is a modern coinage by the British colonists. Its population is estimated at 6,940 according to GeoNames geographical database map and satellite image. It is known as university town and the main Campus of the Delta State University are located in Abraka. It is a fertile ground for domestic, national and international tourists. There are numerous beaches, a turf and country club which have its sources from a tiny spring at the base of a tree from Ubiaja. They are veritable outlet for swimming, canoeing, sports, fishing, picnicking and eating of good barbecue. The beaches, resorts, motel and the chalet cater for high clientele that includes families, vacation seekers, campers and corporate groups.

The first settler (Avwraka) is believed to have migrated from Benin. He had two sons, Aghwa and Ivie. These two are seen as the distant ancestors of Umiaghwa and Oruarivie of Avwraka. The main settlements in Abraka today are Ori, Urhuagbesa, Umeghe, Oteri (founded by descendents of Oruarivie) and Otorho-Avwraka (Avwraka inland). The link between Abraka Warri and Supply increased the commercial activities in the community. The community though divided is governed by one king-ovie. They have spokes man-Otota, they are basically monolithic Urhobo people. They enjoy constant temperature of long wet season and short dry season.

### **3.3 Populations Size**

The total population of study area is 6,940 (2010 population projection). The respondents for the study included: a) farmers, b) herds men c) household heads d) community members and e) the police. The inclusion criteria for participants were predicated on occupation and voluntariness. Those who are farmers, house hold heads, herdsmen and force men were selected for sampling. These respondents were significant in generating relevant information on herdsmen and farmer conflict in Abraka community

**Sampling Size and Sampling Technique**

A total of 425 participants were drawn from the total population. The research adopted a purposive and probabilistic method of sampling. Purposive method of sampling was adopted for the selection of farmers, herdsmen and selected police officers who were directly involved in the conflict. Probabilistic method of data collection was used in selecting household heads and some police officials who are law enforcement agents.

**Method of Data Collection**

The use of instruments was triangulated for the collection of primary and secondary data which entailed both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study made use of secondary and primary source of data collection. The primary source involved the use of questionnaire, in-depth interview and key informants. Quantitative data were gathered with the use of semi-structured questionnaire, while qualitative data was generated with the use of in-depth interview, snow ball and key informants. Secondary source of data collection included archival material.

**Data Presentation and Discussion**

Total of 60.7% and 14.6% of the participants were Christians and Muslims respectively. While traditional adherents are 17.8%, no participant was an Atheist. The category of participants who fell under others was 6.8%. A total of 29.2% participants had Primary school certificate. Secondary School leavers were 21.4%. BSc holders were 24.5%, while higher degrees holders are 22.1%, category which fell under others were 2.8%. Those who were single as at the time of the survey were 16.7%. While 66.4%, 3.5% and 6.1% are married, divorced or separated respectively, total of 12% were cohabiting. Participants who are farmers were 30.4%, 18.1% were herdsmen, 40.7% business oriented, while 3.7 were civil servants, the category of respondents who signified their occupation as others were 7.1%.

**Causes of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict**

S/N	Responses	Frequency	Percentages
1	Access to grazing lands	122	28.7
2	Contamination of river	58	13.6
3	Destruction of crops	107	25.1
4	Molestation of animals	106	24.9
5	Spread of tsetse fly	32	7.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>100</b>

From the table above, a total of (28.7%) revealed that the series of Fulani herdsmen and farmers conflict in Abraka is a land resource based conflict. According to a key informant, “Fulani herders and farmers are in constant violent conflict over herdsmen’s increased need for access to grazing lands”. According to (25.1%) respondent, while farmers look for expansion of farmland to grow their crops, Fulani herdsmen who are also searching for pastures destroy their farm produce. Farmers accuse the Fulani herders of allowing their animals to feed on growing crops. Total of (13.6%) respondents revealed that the activities of herdsmen with their animal’s leads to contamination of community only source of water supply. On the other hand, total of (24.9%) respondents who were mainly Fulani herders accused the farmers of denying them access to grazing areas when alternatives cannot be found. These respondents alluded to the fact that, farmers molest them and their animal while they go on their normal business of pasturing their flock. The above data is validated by a respondent in an in-depth interview. According to the respondent;

We are like farmers who search for farmlands, grasses and water for the animals. the animals are difficult to control at times, so they climp/eat on farmers produce. This make farmers chasing us with cutlass. We I no like our animal spoil farm. Because of experience we arm body for attack. We are not bad as people think. **IDI, Male, August, 2016.**

**Repercussions of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict**

**Responses on how Herdsmen-Farmers conflict affect lives and Economic activity**

	Strongly Agreed	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
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Female	41	23	0	4	68
Male	24	19	0	9	52
<b>Total</b>	65	42	0	13	<b>120</b>

$$X^2 = (o-e)/e$$

Where:

**O**= observed frequency

**E**= expected frequency

$$X^2 = 68 \times 65 / 120 = 36.84$$

$$68 \times 42 / 120 = 23.8$$

$$68 \times 13 / 120 = 7.37$$

$$52 \times 42 / 120 = 18.2$$

$$52 \times 13 / 120 = 5.64$$

#### Contingency table

<b>O</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E-o</b>	<b>(e-o)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>e-o)<sup>2</sup>/e</b>
41	36.84	4.16	17.31	0.470
23	23.8	-0.18	0.64	0.269
0	0	0	0	0
4	7.39	-3.37	11.36	1.541
24	28.17	-4.17	17.31	0.614
19	18.2	0.08	0.64	0.352
0	0	0	0	5.260
9	5.64	3.37	11.36	2.014
<b>X<sup>2</sup></b>				10.52

$$DF = (C-1)(R-1)$$

$$DF = (4-1) \times (2-1)$$

$$= 3$$

Table value of 3 at 0.05 critical value is 7.81

$$X^2 = 10.52$$

Since the calculated value is greater than the table value, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative is accepted. This implies that, farmers-herdsmen conflict affects socio-economic activities in abiraka. From the foregoing, it is believed that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers causes stagnation in the activities of farmers. This affects every other sector in the community. All Hausas who are not herdsmen often flee from the community to avoid reprisals attack. According to a key informant,

The herdsmen-farmers conflicts have cost abiraka economy more than (\$2m) between 2016-2017. It has slow market activities, development and economic growth. By killing both farmers and non farmers, destroying productive assets, preventing trade, deterring investment, and eroding trust between markets actors, large sums of money is lost. This recent crisis heightened the security challenge and insurgency of kidnapping which was mediated by the force men in Abiraka. Unlike other crisis which is concentrated on a fraction of the community, herdsmen and farmers conflict affected many people in Abiraka. Is only few people that do not eat meat, tomato, salad and onions. During crisis, these commodities become scarce and very expensive. **KII, Male, 2016**

A total of (67%) revealed that Fulani Herdsmen attack has accounted for the death of some farmers. It has led to relocation of some Hausa men who fear attack. This has negatively affected farmers output in Abiraka. Socio-economic effects of the conflict resulted to reduction in crop yield and income of both farmers and herdsmen. It leads to displacement of farmers, relocation of Hausas, loss of lives and properties. Loss of products in storage and destruction of public and private facilities causes setbacks. Some hide under the conflict to steal and rape innocent citizens.

Psychologically, (43%) of the participants who witnessed the clash between herdsmen and farmers have this phobia of going to farm. The fear of facing another attack by the heavily armed herdsmen pulls them to stay back at home. This herdsmen/farmers conflict according to (45.2%) has strained the cordial relationship which Hausas and community members have developed over the years. According to a participant;

Whenever there is conflict, it leads to shortage of food supply. Increased poverty, migration of entrepreneurs, and dislocation of people from their farm lands. There was tension and suspicion of the various ethnic groups. This raised intense fear in the atmosphere already charged with insecurity. IDI, Female, 2016

### **Strategies for Resolutions**

Among the numerous responses, the following solutions were prominent.

	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequencies</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Ranching	209	49.2
2.	Map out Grazing area	119	28
3	Educate both parties on seasons	57	13.4
4	Inject Security personnel	40	9.4

From the table above, a total of (49.2%) respondents revealed that ending herdsmen-farmers conflict could be resolved by ranches-. Ranch is a method of raising livestock under range conditions. Under this situation, the herdsmen will have to search for how to feed their animals without necessarily destroying farm products.

Another strategy of mediating farmers-herdsmen conflict according to (28%) respondent is by mapping out grazing area. This is a processing of designating an area which will be solely used for grazing of animals. This strategy will also keep animals away from farm lands. Therefore the clash between farmers and herdsmen will be a thing of the past.

Another strategy which could put an end to the conflict according to (13.3%) respondents is making frantic effort of educating both the farmers and herdsmen. Farmers should be educated that herdsmen are likely to move around in search of pasture and water at a specific time. The herdsmen on the hand, should be educated on the need to stay away from farm lands until harvest is over. This will avoid destruction of still growing crops. As a way of putting an end to the conflict, a respondent revealed that,

Over the years, as a way of preventing these constant conflicts and incidents of violent attacks, the government should initiate a policy to provide peace-keeping operations in the form of increased military presence in and around the affected areas. Besides the restoration of some temporary semblance of calmness, past effort geared towards peace-keeping operations seem not to do much. Strategies that address the conflict to gain lasting and sustainable peace should be encouraged. Rather than limiting its efforts to providing Peace-Keeping military forces, Peace-Building efforts, which address the root causes and effects of these conflicts would serve better and would ensure more durable and sustainable peace between the contending parties in the perennial and incessant conflicts.

KII, Male, August, 2016

According to (9.4%) respondents, injecting security personnel will strengthen peaceful co-existence. Peace-building according to a key informant should include, among other things,

“the setting down of structures which, will identify and address the root causes of these violent pastoral conflicts. This will support, enhance and promote internal local capacities for conflict resolution and peace management among the conflicting parties”. KII, Male, August, 2016.

By so doing, the recurrence of violence will prevent or minimize the occurrence and reoccurrence of the conflict. The herdsmen should be assisted in initiating and building up conflict resolution mechanisms. This will prevent or ameliorate actual or impending conflicts. Interactions through dialogue, periodical meetings, negotiations and other physical interactions, should be created, to build peaceful relational coexistence between both parties. This will reduce tensions and the likelihood of future conflicts.

Also as way out, the farmers should be educated on the seasonal movement of herders. Herdsmen should stay away from farm lands especially during the season while crops are not harvested.

## **Conclusion**

The conflict between herdsmen and farmers has strained the cordial; relationship that was established among the ethnic group. Land as an indispensable factor of production is at the centre of the conflicts among herdsmen and farmers. Crop destruction by cattle in Abraka, contamination of water, overgrazing of farm land, sexual harassment by Nomads, harassment of nomads by indigent community member, defecation of cattle on the roads, cattle theft by host communities, bush burning and stray cattle from herdsmen caused the fight. A larger percentage of the herdsmen revealed that molestation of their animals and obstruction to grazing their animals was responsible for the conflicts. Although most Hausa respondents revealed that they arm themselves to combat those who obstruct them and thieves who attack and get away with their animal, unavoidably, this resulted conflict in Abraka.

Conflict between herdsmen and farmers have negative consequences on both parties and the nation as a whole. Loss of lives, loss of properties decrease in output and economic vibrancy, Displacement of both farmers & Fulani herdsmen, proliferation of arms and Land degradation are the some of the consequences suffered by the both parties. Tackling the Perennial Conflicts between farmers and cattle herdsmen will be successful if government maps out grazing areas. Ranches, a method of raising livestock under range conditions has been suggested as the best solution to the incessant Fulani herdsmen/famers crises livestock would be healthier, more productive, while the herdsmen would avoid unnecessary attacks. Herdsmen should feed their livestock but not to the detriment of farmers and properties of community members.

There is need, on the part of the Federal Government and the affected state governments, to institute some necessary action towards tackling the incessant problem of acute water shortage and drought which are the two key issues that drive the herdsmen out from their immediate environment to seek fresh pasture and clean water elsewhere. Enactment of relevant legislation to enable the grant of pastoral leases in some designated areas should be considered. While doing this, consideration should be given to native or indigenous land rights.

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