



**INSECURITY
CHALLENGES IN
NIGERIA: CAUSES AND
IMPLICATION FOR FOOD
PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION**

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Abstract

The problem of insecurity both in human and food are the major confrontation in Nigeria. Insecurity of human led to food insecurity. The problems were created from Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen activities. As the Fulani herders were unleashing violence across the country, so was the Boko Haram sect terrorizing the north-eastern geopolitical zone of the country. The findings from the paper revealed that land resources, mischiefs, grazing animals by under-aged children and influx of foreign herdsmen are the major causes of conflict between farmers and herdsmen. Based on the information gathered, persistent attacks on farmlands are among the reasons for low productivity of farm produce. The implications are low financial income and increase in prices of food items and socio-economic development. This situation if not addressed, could result into

hunger and poverty for average households. In order to settle the problem of food insecurity, this paper encourages that, rather

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than create grazing routes and reserves for Fulani herders outside their states of origin, the federal and, more importantly, the state governments of Fulani states should make livestock production a sedentary occupation. They should cite ranches in Fulani states and on lands owned or leased (not seized) by the Fulani and confine cattle breeding within the enclosed areas.

INTRODUCTION

Presently in Nigeria, the problems of insecurity are raging all over the country. Nigeria is not at war in the real sense of the word but the carnage resulting from various forms of insecurity qualifies it to be regarded as conflict-ridden and at war. The Nigeria Security Tracker and the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) estimated the total number of deaths associated with the Boko Haram Terrorist group alone between June 2011 and June 2018 at 34,261 and 37,530 people (Campbell & Harwood, 2018). Apart from the Boko Haram sect, there are other sources of violent deaths, which include intercommunity conflicts, herders-farmers' conflicts, clashes between security agencies and socio cultural and religious groups and other criminal activities, especially ransom kidnappings. In 2018 alone, there were about 10,665 fatalities from various types of violence in Nigeria with the highest source of violent deaths resulting from criminal activities, which recorded 3,425 deaths in 1,191 incidents (Ukoji et al, 2019; Nwozor et.al. 2019).

The deadly activities of the Boko Haram sect in the north eastern geopolitical zone and herdsman/farmers conflict, especially in the western part of the country were another major threat to national security with serious implications for food security. Generally, the Fulani herders are mainly nomadic as they traverse the entire country in search of pastures for their herds. The transhumance tradition of the Fulani herders has often pitted them against sedentary farmers as a result of the destruction of the farms of the farmers. In the past, precisely before 2015, these conflicts were well managed by the herders and farmers that they never escalated to the level of recording fatalities. Although since 1999, when Nigeria returned to democratic rule, conflicts between the Fulani herders and farmers gradually assumed a different tone, frequency, ubiquity, complexity and lethality with the traditional dispute mechanisms becoming inadequate to contain them. The violence and rate of killing by the Fulani herders led the Institute for Economics and Peace to capture them in the global terrorism index and classify them as a terrorist group as well as name them as the fourth deadliest group in 2014 after having been responsible for the death of 1,229

people (IEP, 2015). This classification was instructive considering that in the previous year, i.e., 2013, the group was responsible for only 63 deaths (Burton, 2016).

International Crisis Group (2017); Amnesty International (2018) and Ilo et al, (2019) opined that since 2014, the Fulani herders are still deadly as they are responsible for various forms of attacks, especially ransom kidnappings and militia expeditions against farming communities considered antagonistic to their herding and pasturing activities. What must have emboldened the spates of attacks by the Fulani herders is the nonchalance of the Nigerian government despite the international classification of these herders as terrorists. The source of the boldness of the Fulani herders is linked to the open support of their socio-cultural organizations, notably the Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria and Fulani Nationality Movement as well as the tacit support of the Nigerian president, Muhammadu Buhari. Despite the perception of Nigerians that the presidency is shielding the herder-killers and their sponsors, the government has not done anything substantial to controvert this perception.

In the past, they only carried and relied on long wooden staff, machetes, and bows and arrows. But now, the boldness of the Fulani herders could be seen in the type of sophisticated weapons at their disposal. They parade the Soviet assault rifle, Avtomat Kalashnikova (AK47). And, with these weapons, they have been unleashing terror on farming communities across Nigeria. For instance, between 2010 and 2013, the Fulani herders were responsible for killing only 80 people compared to 1,229 people they killed in 2014 alone. Recent estimates paint a very distressing picture of carnage. It is estimated that more than 10,000 persons lost their lives in the past decade from the violence unleashed by Fulani herders on farming communities. Out of this figure, more than 6,000 persons were casualties in the past two years (Kwaja & AdemolaAdelehin, 2018; Ilo, et al, 2019). A further breakdown showed that fatalities resulting from conflicts between Fulani herders and farmers in 2016 alone were about 2,500 persons. Similar

high trend in fatalities manifested between 2011 and 2016 when more than 2,000 deaths on average were recorded (International Crisis Group, 2017). Updated data from the Nigeria Security Tracker documented that fatalities from Fulani herders-farmers' conflicts in 2017 and 2018 were 1,041 and 2,037 deaths respectively (Campbell, 2018). As the Fulani herders were unleashing violence across the country, so was the Boko Haram sect terrorizing the north-eastern geopolitical zone. The record of fatalities linked to Boko Haram conflicts in 2018 showed a death toll of 2,016 persons (Campbell, 2018; Ilo, et al, 2019).

Before now, insecurity was pronounced in the northern Nigeria. In recent times, reports of kidnapping armed robbery and other violent crimes have made headiness in the country. Recently, Ondo State Governor, Rotimi Akeredolu issued a seven day quit notice to unregistered herders in the state's forest reserve. While many were still talking that in , communities, in Ibarapa local government area of Oyo state backed a rights activist to evict a Fulani leader (Gist Nigeria airs at 9pm on Wednesdays on channels TV and channels 24 (UK) on Sky 518, 2021; Oyo Insight, Thursday 14th January, 2021). The combined effect of these conflicts is the disruption of activities necessary for food production with serious implications for food security. Also late 2020, 45 persons were killed by Boko Haram in rice a farm in Bornu State. Right from 2013, the activities of the Boko Haram group have been responsible for the displacement of 2.4 million people and putting over seven million people at the risk of starvation (Campbell & Harwood, 2018; UNHCR, 2018). Kwaja & Ademola- Adelehin, (2018) moved further that across the states in Nigeria where the Fulani herders have unleashed terror, a necessary fallout is internal displacement arising from the destruction of the ancestral homes of the victims. For instance, estimates put the number of people displaced in Nigeria's Middle Belt states of Benue, Kaduna, Nasarawa and Plateau states at over 620,000 persons. The impact of displacement on these farming communities is that their contributions to food production in the country are lost as they are not in any position to continue with their occupation of farming. The implication is the deepening of the food insecurity challenge in the country.

National Insecurity as pathway for Food Insecurity

Nigeria is the most populous country in black Africa. The total population as at 2018 was 198.1 million with projections for persistent growth due to high fertility rate and improved child and maternal mortality (NBS, 2018; CBN, 2018). The problem facing the country is how to feed her people. Nigeria has an ever-expanding need for food in order to meet the food and nutrition needs of its population and achieve food security. The current situation is that Nigeria lacks both the capacity and capability to produce enough food to feed its population despite its favourable agro-ecological conditions. In other words, Nigeria is food insecure. Agaptus (2019) referenced FMARD (2016) that Nigeria still imports about [US] \$3 to \$5 billion worth of food annually, especially wheat, rice, fish and sundry items, including fresh fruits. The burgeoning population means that more and more resources would be devoted to food importation in order to meet the basic food needs of the country.

Table 1: Gaps in demand and supply of selected staple crops (2016 Estimate)

S/N	Crop	Demand (tons)	Supply (tons)
1	Rice	6.3 million	2.3 million
2	Wheat	4.7 million	0.06 million
3	Maize/Corn	7.5 million	7.0 million
4	Soya Beans	0.75 million	0.6 million
5	Tomato	2.2 million	0.8 million

Source: FMARD, 2016

Table 1 above shows that Nigeria is food insecure as there is a wide gap between domestic demand and supply. What this implies is that there is substantial foreign exchange flight out of the country through importation to augment the shortfalls. The overall implication is that farmers lose income that would otherwise have accrued to them and the agricultural sector continues to stagnate thereby losing its potential to generate employment.

Food Production

The insecurity in Nigeria is having a serious negative impact on farming communities as it prevents them from engaging in crop production at optimal levels (Nwozor et.al.2019). In recent times, insecurity has negatively impacted agricultural production. Agricultural activities in the northeast of Nigeria are completely suspended as a result of the terrorist activities of the Boko Haram group in that geopolitical zone and Fulani herders whose murderous campaigns have targeted farming communities, with no challenge from the state (Amnesty International, 2018). Since 2013, there has been a steady increase in the number of displaced persons as a result of conflicts across Nigeria. United Nations sources estimated that over 2.4 million people have so far been displaced with new records of displacement from conflicts expanding the number (UNHCR, 2018). According to IDMC (2019), between January and June 2019, about 142,000 new displacements were recorded with a caveat that the figure could most likely be an underestimate. The displacement of farming communities as a result of attacks by armed groups, criminal violence and banditry is associated with an alarming rise in food and nutrition insecurity due to nonavailability of food. The UNHCR’s Deputy High Commissioner underscored the gravity of conflict induced food insecurity when he was quoted to have said, “The future of young generations in the region is at stake, as food insecurity not only affects the dignity of families, but has serious consequences on the physical and cognitive development of children” (UNHCR, 2018).

Therefore, the overall implication is reinforcing cyclic interconnections that would create and sustain intractable security crisis. The intractability of insecurity would result from the clash of national insecurity and food insecurity. In other words, with national insecurity making it impossible for farmers to engage in their farm activities, food shortages would result. As food shortages result, it would create disaffection, which in turn spawns a new round of insecurity due to the intensification of food crisis and mass reaction to it. Thus, there would be constant insecurity caused by the interplay of national insecurity and food insecurity. Of course, this scenario

could be averted through massive importation of food to bridge the gap. But it would have implications for national development due to capital flight and the deepening of poverty.

Human Security

Human Security is a relative freedom from war. National security is intrinsically linked to human security. Indeed, human security is at the epicentre of national security. Human security prioritizes the security of the individual over the state since there can be no state without its citizens. Louw and Lubbe (2017) have noted that human security “primarily focuses on protecting the integral worth of people against insecurities” by dealing with “the circumstances that threaten the well-being and survival of the people”. Thus, human security emphasizes the “establishment of food and water security, economic and political security for the general population as critical mechanisms to achieve a more stable level of state security” (Lanicci et al, 2017). He added that security might be considered as too militaristic but without security, it would be impossible to provide that of the peace and develop human rights and economic welfare. Moreover, security to him is about the survival of humans and the prevention of wars, killings, massacres.

Security could be generally classified according to their levels of operational analysis. State-to-state level of analysis deals with security issues between states. This type of analysis is especially important for scholars who are close to Realist school of thought, since they believe that nation-states are the primary actors in international relations and they claim to be the ultimate authority in resolving conflicts between them (Bellamy “Human Security”). The state and transnational civil society (trans-state security) level of analysis is interested in relationships between state and non-state elements and that within non-state elements and more available for scholars close to Liberal school of thought (Bellamy “Human Security”). The third level of analysis is international security which focuses on the relations between international and supranational organizations such as NATO,

Warsaw Treaty Organization, EU etc. and states. International security studies try to develop a macro level analysis (Alhaji Thomas 2019).

Similarly, the United Nations Development Programme has distinguished seven dimensions of human security to include:

1. Economic security which assure every individual a minimum requisite income.
2. Food security that emphasizes guarantee of physical and economic access to basic foodstuffs.
3. Health security which is the guarantee of minimum protection from disease and unhealthy lifestyles.
4. Environmental security that protects people from the short- and long-term ravages of nature, man-made threats in nature, and deterioration of the natural environment.
5. Personal security, protecting people from physical violence.
6. Community security for the protection of people from loss of traditional relationships and values and from sectarian and ethnic violence.
7. Political security to ensure that people live in a society that honours their basic human rights. Consequently, human security as conceived by UNDP moves the focus away from states and towards individuals. It emphasizes human rights, safety from violence, and sustainable development (Alhaji Thomas 2019).

Food Security

According to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Africa, food security is a situation “When all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life”. Therefore, food security can be described as the condition in which a person has access to good, quality and sufficient food to consume in order to live healthy and productive life. Also, Agbo (2002) defined food security as access by all people at all times to sufficient food for a healthy and productive life. Idachaba (1993) asserted the definition of food security as the right of

everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right of everyone to be free from hunger. Odey (2002) articulated food security system definition as the availability and accessibility of foodstuff in desired quality to all consumers throughout the year. Eme, et. al. (2004) added that food security is dependent on agricultural production, food imports and donations, employment opportunities and income earnings, intra-household decision-making and resource allocation, health care utilization and caring practices.

Causes of food insecurity in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the prices of agricultural commodities, including staples of many African diets, have risen sharply over the last six years. The prices of maize and wheat have doubled and the price of rice has now reached unprecedented levels. The factors leading to increased prices and resultant food crisis are diverse and complex. Most factors however, can be thought of as having impacts on the supply of food and/or the demand for food.

a. Supply and demand for food

The population of Nigeria demand for high supply of food to meet the rapid increase in the population. The supply of food may be affected by land and water constraints, under investment in rural infrastructure and agriculture, lack of access to fertilizer and irrigation, trade policies and weather disruptions. Factors that affect the demand for food include rising energy prices and conversions of crop lands to bio fuel production, population growth, globalization of food markets and changing diets. Some other factors are like attack by pests, climate and host of others which are easily controlled by pesticides and irrigation projects in the State. But the upsurge of the conflicts has graving consequences on both the lives of farmers and farm produce.

b. The current food crisis is the simplest terms as result of Fulani herdsmen/farmers conflicts, Boko Haram sect and kidnapping which are rampart in the country now.

This current food crisis can be grouped into many categories such as:

i. Land resources:

Whatever the causes of Fulani herdsmen/farmers conflicts are, it is evident that the conflicts have been of great negative implications. A study of the major causes of conflict between farmers and herdsmen shows that access to farmland and grazing land are the principal cause of the conflict in every parts of the country. Farmers need land to cultivate their crops likewise the herdsmen need land for grazing their animals. According to a farmer from Isanlu-Isin in Isin Local Government Area of Kwara State conflict ensues when there is misunderstanding over access to land. According to him, land is an important factor because there are so many resources on land, e.g. cash crop and mineral resources (Idowu, 2016).

The herdsman will be in the position that he want his cattle to be well fed, in the process he will have to go into farm of a farmer that all his life that is what he has been doing waiting for the day those things will be ripe for harvest. At that stage that is when the herdsmen will put their cow for it to be destroyed. Farmer from Oke-Ogun and Ibarapa Local Government Areas of Oyo State said that farmers, especially those who have spent huge among of money on their farms, feel devastated whenever they see their farms destroyed by cattle of the herdsmen (Idowu, 2016).

ii. Encroachment into cattle routes

Idowu, (2016) opined that the Jouro of Fulani in Afon District explained that land is a major cause of the conflict. He mentioned that the populations of people are increasing everyday but the land does not increase and most of the routes of cattle traditionally known as cattle routes before have been blocked as a result of development, construction of roads, bridges, railway line, etc. Some farmers during dry season plant crops along the river bank where cattle traditionally graze and drink water. Farmers will insist on

planting crops on their land while herdsmen will be eager to feed his cattle. A Fulani herdsman from Ayedun in Oke-Ero Local government identified the cause of the conflict as encroachment into cattle routes. The cattle route, which the animals are known to pass for ages have been encroached by farmers unknowingly to the herders. Conflict ensues whenever they are prevented from gaining access to the land and river.

iii. Mischief

Respondents identified assault on human lives as another cause of the conflict in Kwara State. In Ibarapa Local Government Area (L.G.A.) of Oyo State, particularly in Igangan, the untold hardship caused by herdsmen is quite devastating. The havoc committed by herdsmen ranges from mischief by cattle of herdsmen, crop destruction, sexual harassment of rural women, maiming of innocent lives either when challenged for causing mischief or involvement in robbery operation (Sahara reporter in January, 2021). The secretary of AFAN and Oke Ogun farmers in deference interviewed asserts that: Since the beginning of the crisis, so many lives and hectares of farmlands have been destroyed with their nefarious activities”. Some farmers in Oke Ogun mentioned that the herdsmen had exhibited such devastating acts at the villages and nearby towns with such bitter pills to swallow by the villagers.

iv. Grazing animals being tendered by under-aged children

In a field study, researcher identified grazing cattle by under-aged children as a cause of the conflict. According to some respondents those under-age children are too small to control herds of cattle during grazing. Farmer from Afon in Asa L.G.A, Ibarapa L.G.A Oyo State and Oke Ogun L.G.A. also in Oyo State identified the use of small children to control large number of cattle can trigger conflict between farmers and herdsmen. According to them, as long the animals are under the control of these children, it becomes

easier for cattle stray into farm. They explained that these children are too small to control herds of cattle. The adult herdsmen often seat at home while the children who are of tender age are allowed to herd cattle. Because of the large number of cattle, there is no way a cow will not stray into farmland to destroy crops. In a similar view, a farmer in Isin Local Government Area according to Idowu, (2016) submits that the herdsmen using underage children to control a large number of cattle also contributes to farm destruction being witnessed in the State. He stated that most times the animal stray into farmland because the children of the herdsmen could not control the animal during grazing activities.

v. Influx of foreign herdsmen

In an interview with the AFAN State secretary, it was observed that the influx of foreign herdsmen into the state accounts for most of the destruction on farmlands: “The influx of herdsmen from the Northern part of Nigeria and neighbouring country has increased the population of herdsmen in the State, pushing farmers and herdsmen into competition over land. The number of herdsmen present in the state has increased more than what they can cope with”.

The respondent also claimed that the destruction was usually prevalent during dry season due to insufficient grass to feed their cattle. In a similar observation by the Jouro of Fulani in Afon District, the migration of the Bororo herdsmen into the state has increased the tempo of the conflict. The Jouro in his remark said that: The issue of animal straying into farmland is mostly caused by the Bororos. They herd their cattle any time of the day and night. The native Fulani who herd cattle know where the farmlands are, because they are familiar with the

environment, unlike the Bororo herdsmen who are not familiar with the environment. They are the one that usually destroy people's farm, and once they commit any havoc in the area, they relocate to another area.

Other respondents identified additional causes such as language barrier, geometric rise in population, cattle rustling and lack of earth dams as sources of the conflict. Based on the above discussion, it was discovered that the causes of farmers-herdsmen conflict identified in this study were similar to the findings of the existing scholars in the field. The study by Basil and Ekpeyemi (2016) have shown that "conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and farmers have led to loss of lives, valuable properties and destruction of vast expanse of arable agricultural farmlands thereby posing serious threat to food security since farmers for fear of attack could no longer go to farm and harvest their farm produce.

Implication of insecurity on food production and sufficient

➤ Low productivity

Persistent attacks on farms contribute largely to the decline of food production in the State. It was estimated that the conflict had led to the destruction of crops running to millions of naira in the State. According to the AFAN secretary, so many hectares of farmlands have been destroyed. The majority of our members have been groaning of the menace of herdsmen attack on their crops. Most of the farmers in the state have witnessed heavy destruction of their crops in the last few years be it in the southern, western and northern part of the country. He mentioned that the destruction of crops by cattle occurs every year. The secretary pointed out that a lot of destructions have been done to farmers' crops to an extent that some farmers have abandoned farming for other businesses in town.

According to him, “some farmers relied on loan obtained from banks to farm and at the end of the day, had their crop destroyed by the cattle of herdsmen”. He noted that some of the destructions were intentional and they usually occurred in the night when farmers would have returned home. We can consider the conflict between farmers and herdsmen as an agricultural war as it affects crop production in the State.

➤ **Insufficient food for consumption**

The State secretary of AFAN mentioned that “they lost some of their members to the attacks, while others have sustained permanent injury. He stated that if the situation continues like this, it means people will have to suffer. There won’t be enough to cater for their family, not to talk of the State as a whole. Most of them are peasant farmers and they do not have any other means for sustenance apart from farming. A field study in the affected community revealed that farmlands with cassava, maize, and yam tuber were still lying destroyed. A farmer in one of the communities visited mentioned that the bags of fertilizer distributed by government have been sold out because of herdsmen’s attack on their farmlands. Some farmers have already abandoned farming when they couldn’t cope with the loss. Only few have their farm untouched by the cattle of herdsmen. Some have employed guardsmen to protect the farm from being attacked (Alhaji Thomas 2019).

➤ **Low financial income**

According to the respondents, farmers have incurred debt running into millions of naira, leaving them impoverished. The conflict is responsible for the increase in prices of food items making food unaffordable for people to purchase. Many could not afford enough food that could cater for the needs of their family. Farmers are not happy seeing their livelihood destroyed by the activities of migrant herdsmen. The upsurge of the conflict in the state has reduced the financial strength of farmers who couldn’t afford to send their

children to school and attend to the needs of their family. The conflict has greatly increased the price of food commodities. Some household does not have the purchasing power to buy food in the market. Some eat only what they could only afford in the market, and this affect the well-being of common man in the street. Some crops like maize, yam tuber, cassava etc., are now selling for prize beyond the reach of common man in market.

➤ **Household feeding**

The field study conducted shows that there is insufficient food to meet the daily needs of household members in the study area. Some peasants could not afford to feed their family well. It was also revealed that many could not eat three times a day. Food items are becoming inaccessible for common man as a result of incessant attack on farmland. Some families lack purchasing power to get some of the food items to feed their family well. And this could result in the under-nourishment of children.

➤ **Socio-economic development**

The continuous attacks on farmlands have hindered socio-economic development of the State. Some farmers have abandoned farm for the fear of attack by herdsmen. Some women in the villages find it difficult to attend market day because of these undesirable herdsmen attack. The economic profile of the State has been reduced due to low output of food production because people have lost interest in farming. This by implication means that government will rely more on food importation against exportation of food items that could have boasted the internally generated revenue of the State.

Summary

National insecurity has caused serious disruptions in Nigeria's agricultural activities. While millions of farmers have been uprooted and displaced from their ancestral farming communities, others are perpetually afraid for their lives and as such cannot optimally engage in farming activities. The direct

implication is declining productivity with attendant shortfalls, both of which further deepen the contradictions surrounding agricultural production in Nigeria and the prospects of food security. What the Nigerian government must do to be track with its plans to reposition the agricultural sector is to urgently deal with the insecurity that characterizes the farming communities. There is a far-reaching implication on Nigeria's security architecture if food insecurity is not reversed and resolved. Under different scenarios, food insecurity can create national insecurity or be a consequence of national insecurity. In other words, national insecurity can deepen food insecurity as we are witnessing with the disruptive activities of the Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen. On the other hand, food insecurity can trigger agitations, which could create security crisis that undermines national security. This vicious cycle may go on and on and produce complex security situations that could ultimately weaken and undermine the state. From the foregoing discussions, the following are findings of the study: That several factors affect stable food production in Nigeria other than rainfall which is a natural constraint. These factors range from unimproved mechanized farming, unimproved seedlings, inadequate pesticide and disease control, unimproved irrigation system, unimproved manure systems, Adhoc planning and inconsistent government agricultural policies, bad governance noticed in excess funding of food importation, reduced assistance and investments by developed countries to the developing economies, conversion of food into fuel and animal feed, the linkage of food prices to oil prices, and the current global financial squeeze which has a viscous effect. These constraints are categorizes into sector wide constraints and commodity specific constraints. That in Nigeria staple food production has experienced a declining average growth rate of 3.7% with corresponding growth rates of 1.5% and 2.2% growth rate for food import expenditure and population respectively. This presupposes that the Malthusian thinking of geometric rise in population against arithmetic progression in food production is attainable in Nigeria if nothing is done speedily to ameliorate the attendant problems associated with food supplies.

Conclusion

Food is an important aspect of man's life because it helps to support the growth and wellbeing of man. The farmers-herdsmen conflict and Boko Haram activities remain the major food security threat especially in Nigeria with a growing population estimated around 192 million. The findings of this study have shown that if these activities are not properly addressed it may create hunger and poverty. In addition to that it may result to other attendance negative consequences as started been experienced such as kidnapping and wanton destruction of human lives, theft of cattle and goats. The social, economic and political tensions created as a result of numerous escalations of violent conflicts have raised fundamental national questions for the survival of the Nigerian State. The failure of the state to manage and resolve such conflicts has put a question mark on the suitability or relevance of the federal structure to the Nigerian reality. Insurgency, especially by herdsmen, has thrown a huge cloak of insecurity not just over the entire Benue Valley, Bornu, Kwara, Ondo or Oyo State but also the entire country, and thus, should be everyone's' task. Checking herdsmen activities should not be left only in the hands of security agencies, but rather, should be everyone's' duty. Absolute and total cooperation remain the call of this paper.

Recommendations

It is the position of this paper that, rather than create grazing routes and reserves for Fulani herders outside their states of origin, the federal and, more importantly, the state governments of Fulani states should make livestock production a sedentary occupation. They should cite ranches in Fulani states and on lands owned or leased (not seized) by the Fulani and confine cattle breeding within the enclosed areas. Other States of the Federation should borrow a leaf from Benue State House of Assembly through the enactments of Anti-Open Grazing and Prohibition law so as to curb the incessant grazing by herdsmen. Also government should provide public enlightenment campaigns, seminars and symposia to sensitize the farmers and herdsmen on the divesting impacts of this conflict. Conflict

control strategies such as regular meetings and dialogue should be encourage among the farmers and herdsmen by the community leaders to avert conflict including the setting up of a joint peace and conflict resolution committee made up of the farm community and the herder's constituted by the Government to be reporting the activities of the groups to Government.

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