

Assessing the Role of Peaceful Co-Existence Committee (PCC) in the Management of Farmers/Nomadic Herders Conflict in Nigeria

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Abstract: - The conflict management approach of Peaceful Co-existence Committee (PCC) set up in all the local government areas of Oyo state is pertinent and exemplary to the realization of the important goal of achieving peace, food secured country and achievement of sustainable agricultural development policy in the country. The study examined role of Peaceful Co-existence Committee (PCC) in preventing farmer-herders conflicts in Iseyin local government area of Oke-ogun zone, Oyo state South/west Nigeria. A total of 55 respondents (31 farmers and 24 herders) were selected using a purposive sampling technique. The researcher also conducted Four Key Informant Interview (KII) on: the local government chairman, Director of Agriculture for Iseyin Local Government, chairman of Myetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) and All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN). Data were analysed by descriptive statistics. The findings from the study revealed that the damage to crops, cattle rustling, climatic change leading to desertification and drought in the north, water pollution, competition for arable land among others were the main causes of farmer-herder conflicts. However, the measures used by the PCC in managing the conflict were not effective enough probably because local government in the Nigerian state is constitutionally weak. The study recommended that grazing reserves should be made available to herders in the north to discourage them from moving south/ward. There should also be a strong political will on the part of the federal, state and local government to address farmers and herder conflict and finally, the local government should have chairman elected and not care-taker chairmen whose power are very limited.

Keywords: Conflicts, PCC, Iseyin, Farmers, Herders, Government

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the challenges facing the country today is the issues of conflict and its management. There is no universally acceptable definition for conflict but it simply refers to disagreement between individuals or group over incompatible goals. Conflict in itself is not bad but it can inhibit the process of wellbeing and developments when not properly managed. Conflict is that form of social interaction in which the actors seek to obtain scarce resources by eliminating or weakening their contenders (Ekong, 2003). The different conflicts experienced in the country have severally drawn the country to the precipice of disaster. It has engendered huge human carnage, internal displacements and refugee crisis, loss of

investments, strained inter-communal or inter-ethnic relations, threatened internal security and public order. The recurring conflicts in Nigeria have thus become a matter of great concern to the international community.

The country is one of the nations in the world whose landscape has been inundated, suffused with and deeply enmeshed in spectrum of recurring complex conflicts ranging from resource, communal, to political and ethno-religious conflicts (Jega 2002). The conflict problem in the country has posed a number of threats to the development of the country. The different conflicts have severally drawn the country to the precipice of disaster. It has engendered huge human carnage, internal displacements and refugee crisis, loss of investments, strained inter-communal or inter-ethnic relations, threatened internal security and public order. There is the high level of interethnic and inter-religious vendetta in the country, to the point that it seems that Nigeria is now exhibiting the symptom of a collapsing state, whose members are perpetually at war with one another (Imobighe 2003). On account of the nature of the conflicts among other security threats in the country, United States National Council Intelligence Report of May 28, 2005 predicted that the nation may explode (disintegrate) within 15 years (Agbaje, 2005).

The consequences of conflict may include loss of life and properties, disunity, dissipating development, use of resources on conflict/crisis management, suspicion that could lead to further crises and stunted economic development. Indeed, the nation has undergone series of profound civil disturbances and recurrently seeking ways to manage her persistent and complex problems most especially the ones between farmers and herders that are the two most predominant agricultural land-users. Over the years farmers and herders have constituted a great threat to each other in particular and the country in general as they engaged in fierce struggles for access to such available land which, more often than not, result in increased violence. These conflicts have become a common feature of economic livelihood in West Africa to which Nigeria falls within (Tonah, 2006).

The conflict between farmers and herders which are the two major agricultural land-users in the Nigerian state is becoming more intense in the 21st century. This conflict which dates

back to the earliest written records and is mythically symbolized in many cultures (Chatwin, 1989). It has also increased or decreased in intensity and frequency depending on the: political, socio-economic, environmental and other factors responsible for it. Oyo state which is one of the 36 states in Nigeria is not immune to this conflict. The conflict is even rampant in Oke-ogun zone that comprises of ten local government areas. The reasons is because the zone is agrarian, there are also international boundaries to neighbouring West/Africa countries and local boundary to other states like Kwara. Iseyin local government which is the focus of this study is one of the thirty-three local governments in Oke-ogun area of Oyo state, South/west Nigeria. The local government is agrarian in nature no wonder the local government and other local government areas in Oke-ogun zone is described as the food basket of Oyo state. The major occupation of the people there is: farming, weaving (Aso-oke), trading while pastoralism is practiced by the Hausa/Fulanis in the local government. The local government serves as the major entry point to Oke-ogun from Ibadan and it has a nucleated settlement pattern with people from different ethnic backgrounds in Nigeria and other West Africa countries such as: Yorubas, Tivs, Agatu, Sabes, Baribas, Ohoris, Anagos, Igbos, Hausa and Fulani residing in the town (Igbinsosa, 1994).

The vast geographical area of Iseyin local government has placed farmers in a situation that compel them to live with the migration of large Fulani herders particularly during the dry season. More so, that the Fulani herders still practice the crudest form of animal husbandry, the free range system where they move from one place to another with their cattle in search of pasture and water. This usually forced them to migrate from far north to the southern part of the country including Iseyin local government area where both pasture and water resources can be found in abundance. This has increased the competition for arable land between Fulani herders and farmers resulting to hostility and social friction between the two groups. 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 the local government. 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.

This conflict between herders and farmers is becoming fiercer and increasingly widespread in Iseyin Local Government, Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State, lead to the government and other stakeholders putting in different measures in place to manage this conflict. The most effective is the Peaceful Co-existence Committee (PCC) that was established by the Oyo state government in 2005 to manage the different crisis in the state including farmers/herders crisis. The state government discontents about destruction, carnage that resulted from the farmers and herders conflict decided to bring the body representing farmers (AFAN), herders (MACBAN), director of Agriculture in the local government, the security agencies

including the Divisional Police Officer of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) and other security agencies for effective intelligence gathering and quick response to crisis between them.

It is important to note that the challenges of building a society that engender human development and by extension, the security of the state does not stop at managing crisis, it goes further to put in place a mechanism for lasting harmonious relationship through peace-building initiative. It would then be rational and wise to have peace-building initiative as its long term focus. The impact of the effort of the PCC has stemmed the rise in the crisis between farmers and herders although it has not eradicated it in its entirety. It is against this background this paper seeks to look at the role and effectiveness of PCC in managing the conflict between farmers and herders in Iseyin Local Government area, Oke-ogun zone of Oyo State.

The Problem

The vital role of agriculture in the development of the economies of Third World nations is undeniable (Eastwood et al, 2007). The dwindling economic fortunes as a result of global fall in crude oil prices and the need to reverse high food importation bills, the ever increasing demands for food and raw materials continue to exert more pressures on the arable lands which are required by both farmers and cattle nomads for their production activities. The incessant resources conflicts witnessed in Iseyin Local government area of Oyo State has resulted in loss of lives, property and environmental degradation as also witnessed in other part on Nigeria (Niemella et al, 2005).

Several studies have documented increasing conflict-induced frustrations experienced by these two groups within and outside Nigeria (Watts 1983; Phillips and Titillola Lee 1999; Raynout 2001 and Adger and Brooks 2003). Jibo et al, (2001) reported that Nigeria had witnessed violent conflicts that have attracted the Local, State and National attention in its management. The different conflict management strategies put in place by the government at different level to address these problems have yielded little or no results leading to the setting up of PCC. PCC has tried to find lasting solutions to the problems posed by Farmer/herdsmen conflicts. The establishment of PCC as help a great deal in managing this conflict.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Overview of Farmers-Herdsman Conflict

Different reasons have been given for causes of conflicts between farmers-herdsmen. There appears to be no consensus among both groups as to the causes of their mutual conflict. Past conflicts were solely due to overlap of farmlands with cattle routes, where farmers grow crops on the routes. But recently, this conflict has escalated, taking another dimension of ethnic and religious differences with little effort from government or community leaders aimed at addressing them.

John, (2014) studied the predicaments of the herdsmen/farmers and the true stories behind their conflicts and how these can be resolved. His results show the existence of one-sided reporting by the media, research articles and interested parties. Majority of those reports tend to highlight and report cases in which the nomads faulted farmers and tend to ignore the other side of the stories or even their losses (John, 2014). This appears to aggravate the situation and adds to the speculation and allegations of the nomads.

Other studies show farmers encroachment on cattle routes is the real cause (Nformi et al., 2014). These mystify who is wrong and how these conflicts can be addressed. Ethnic jingoists and politicians have been benefitting in these strifes and without doubt have succeeded in creating a divide between the farmers and nomads, especially in communities that are less educated. Leaders at the Federal, State, and Local Governments; and even at community levels become perplexed and wondered on how these issues can be resolved. Farmers and Nomads in many localities and different countries make their livelihood within the same geographical, political, and socio-cultural conditions which may be characterized by resource scarcity (Braukämper, 2000) or political inequality (Bassett, 1988).

Farmers-Nomads' conflicts have been associated with the conflict of land resource use exacerbated by dwindling resources (Blench, 2004). Some researchers have linked this crisis to the theory of Eco-violence (Okoli and Atelhe, 2014), where environmental factors and exploitation of scarce resources leads to conflicts and violence. This may explain the dwindling grazing resources (land, pasture) and poor management of existing grazing reserves as culpable (Adisa, 2012). This awful situation becomes worst, especially when either the farmer or the nomad is categorised into a group relating to religion, tribe or region. Abbass, (2012) warns that the disharmony in pastoralism and sedentarism reflect enhanced sedentarisation and increased pastoralism leading to constant conflict with the agrarian societies. Some farmers practicing mixed farming attests that their animals have in one way or another affected other farmers, likewise sedentary nomads were in one way or the other affected by farmers (Nformi et al., 2014). This shows that the issue of farmer-nomads conflict is more or less shared problem. Therefore, this may not warrant isolation of farmers or nomads into ethnic or regional groupings for the sake of levying blames on any as the case may be.

The Effects of the Conflicts between Farmers-Nomads on the Community

The degree of harmony and conflict between Fulani nomad and farmers provokes a certain degree of perceptions, particularly in the patterns of the conflicts and corporation, leading to the inevitability of the breakdown of law and order (Blench, 1984). The conflict situation under review has resulted in dire humanitarian, social, economic, and socio-economic consequences. Whatever the causes of farmers-

nomads' conflicts are, it is evident that the conflicts have been of great negative effects. These range from economic effects (such as loss of income/resources/yield) to physical (such as home/farm destruction, bodily injury or death of family member) and socio-psychological effects such as emotional exhaustion, job dissatisfaction (Adisa, 2011a).

The nomads/farmers conflicts in Oyo State hold critical implications for the progress of the state in particular and Nigeria in general. Firstly, it implies negatively for inclusive citizenship in Nigeria. The primordial claims by the natives to exclusive land tenure rights is out of keeping with the constitutional guarantees of inclusive citizenship, which require that every Nigeria has the right to settle and make a living in any part of the country he so pleases. Therefore, any attempt to deny any person or group his/her rights to legitimate settlement and livelihood in any part of the country under the guise of indigene/settler calculus, amounts to the violation of Nigeria's citizenship code.

Secondly, the conflict situation also portends negatively for sustainable peace and development in Nigeria. Given the extent of crisis and violence that has characterized the conflict, it would be obvious to state that such a situation is an enemy of sustainable development both in the affected communities and Nigeria as a whole. Note that development (which invariably translates into national security) cannot be attained and sustained under the atmosphere of crisis (Okoli and Orinya, 2013). Lastly, the implication of the conflict for Nigeria's national security cannot be over emphasized. The attendant security and livelihood crises threaten the collective subsistence and survival of the affected populations. There are also other externalities, such as diminution of agricultural productivity and decline in household capital, all of which do not augur well for societal and national sustainability. It suffices, therefore, to say that the farmers/nomads conflict in Oyo State is inimical to human security, and by extension, national security in Nigeria. The conflicts have not only heightened the level of insecurity, but have also demonstrated high potential to exacerbate the food crisis in Nigeria and other affected countries due to loss of farmer lives, animals, crops and valuable properties (Cotula et al., 2004).

Origin of Peaceful Co-existence Committee (PCC)

The former governor of Oyo state Sen. Abiola Ajimobi on assumption of office in 2011 took the restoration of peace and security as a priority as the state was before then known as a 'garrison'. As part of efforts to restore peace and security, tamed National Union of Road Transport Workers perennial crisis established a Joint Security Task Force known as 'Operation Burst' and the first Security Trust Fund in the state. The governor also established State Inter-Religious/Ethnic Committee (JIREC), Oyo State Multi-Door Court House and Negotiation/Democratisation of security through Community Relations Department (The Guardian, 2019).

In order to continuously sustain the successes recorded by the different security initiative established by the governor. The Peace Co-existence Committee (PCC) was formed. PCC was inaugurated and signed by him to be situated and domicile in all the 33 local government areas in Oyo state. PCC comprises of Chairman of the local government as the chairman of the committee, one representative of the Directorate of State Security Service (DSS), one representative of the Nigeria Police Force (DPO), one representative of Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, one representative of the vigilante group, secretary to the local government as committee secretary, the most senior traditional ruler of the local government or his representative as members, one representatives each from: MACBAN, AFAN, PCRC, CAN, Nigerian Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and so on.

The committees have worked over the years and despite this, some of the areas experience some conflicts while other conflict-prone areas have become free of conflict. It is therefore important to assess how effective the peace and security committees have been in the area, known for its exploits in food production and green pasture. Specifically, the study sets out to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents; identify the causes of farmer– pastoralist conflicts in the study area; examine the respondents’ awareness of measures taken by Local government Peace and Security Committee to prevent or manage conflicts among farmer and pastoralist in the study area; and determine farmers and pastoralist perception of effectiveness of conflict prevention of PSC. It was hypothesized that no significant relationship existed between respondents perceived causes of conflict experienced and perceptions of effectiveness of peace and security committee, and that no significant difference existed between farmers and pastoralists’ in their perception of the effectiveness of peace and security committee in conflict prevention.

III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Committee System

Etuk, (1991) defines a committee as a group of individuals who are specially selected to meet on occasion of discussion and find solutions to specific or general problems, affecting the organization, committee are in this supplemental structure that facilitate(s) task performance. Regular or standing committees are permanent disbanded when they accomplish their temporary assignments. Purposes of committee include pulling experience together for better results, co-coordinating effort and activities and promoting democratic culture, skill acquisition, co-operation and team spirit among committee members

Oyediyo (1995: 1155- 117) has enumerated advantages of committees.

It provides opportunity for group deliberation and superior judgments and makes room for a broad representation of views.

Committees bring about improved co-ordination and consolidation of fragmented efforts and activities.

Committees serve as additional lines of communication and foster friendship and mutual respect among members.

The use of committees stimulates individual interest to organizational goals, and ginger deeper commitment.

The use of committee permits expert knowledge to be utilized with great speed and efficiency.

Committees allow room for detailed consideration and solution to organization problems.

Committees distribute decision, function widely within the organizations and help to remedy the inevitable imperfection in the managerial division of labour. The committee system approach portrays PCC as the opportunity for members of MACBAN, AFAN, PCRC, ILG, Security Agencies and Traditional Institutions to set up a committee comprises of epresenatatives from different interest groups most especially that of farmers and herders; and have broad deliberations with farmers and herders in the various communities in which they live and also settle issues arising between them. This help for conflict reduction and orderliness in the society, the perspectives notes that community relations bring improved co-ordination between the farmers and herders groups. The committee system lays particular emphasis on fostering of friendship, communities interest and deep commitment among both parties. The community relations help to remedy the problems of hide out of criminal in most communities in our society.

IV. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study area is Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The area is bounded in the North by Itesiwaju Local Government Area, in the east by Oyo West and Afijio Local Government Areas, in the West by Kajola and Iwajowa Local Government Areas and in the South by Ibarapa North and Ibarapa East Local Government Areas, all in Oyo State. The total population is estimated to be 170,589 (NPC, 2019). Iseyin Local Government has an estimated land area of 2,952km². The climatic conditions of the area include 1125-2600mm of mean annual rainfall and a temperature range of 690-950f while the relative humidity is high. The vegetation is of the derived guinea savannah type, this is characterized by clumps of deciduous trees reaching between 12-15m and grasses tall (Afolabi, 1977). It has heterogeneous population of Yoruba, Tiv, Agatu, Ibo, Hausa and Fulani (Igbinsa, 1994). The main occupation of majority of the indigenes in the area are farming, trading and weaving. Pastoralism is practiced majorly by the Fulanis and Hausas. Crop farming is ranked highest and this enhanced the designation of the area as the food basket of Oyo State. The agro-pastoralists in

Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State comprise the population of the study. A purposive sampling technique was used to draw fifty-five respondents from PCC to participate in the study.

Data was collected through primary source by administering questionnaires on farmers and herders, while a well-structured interview was conducted on PCC members. The Psychometric properties test was done by doing a face and content validity of the items in the scale to determine the extent to which the instrument measures what was designed to measure, and consistency within the instruments (split half method). Descriptive was used for data analysis. Frequency and

percentages were used in presenting data for all the specific objectives of the study. This research work will rely heavily on both primary and secondary sources of information. Primary sources of data will be questionnaires administered on PCC members in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo state and the interview conducted with some key stakeholders within the Local Government to corroborate the finding. While the secondary source of information will be from existing books published by various scholars on Conflicts between Famers and Herders. Also, archival materials, newspapers, magazines, journals, articles and other online materials found useful were made use of in the research work.

Figure 1.1: Map of Oke-ogun zone



Source: Department of Cartography in Geography, University of Ibadan, 2018

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter is concerned with the analysis of the data collected from the field and discussion of findings. The data are firstly coded and converted to meaningful information presented in tabular form. In line with the structure of the questionnaire used to collect data each table and diagram addressed specific statement in the instrument. The analysis is based on the 55 out of 55 questionnaires administered and four Key Informant Interviews (KII) conducted with respondents.

Socio-Demographic Analysis

Table: 4.1: Age

Age	Frequency	Percentages
18-28	17	30.9
29-39	21	38.2
40-50	12	21.8
51-61	5	9.1
Total	55	100.0

Discussions of Findings

The Table above shows that on age respondents between: 18-28 years are 17(30.9%), 29-39years of the respondents are 21(38.2%), respondents whose age falls within 40-50 are 12(21.8%) and finally respondents between the ages of 51-61 years are 5(9.1%). This means that on age respondents between ages within 18-39 years are 69.1%. The average age of the respondents implies that many of them were in their active ages and are likely to be aware of the farmers/herders conflict crisis.

Table: 4.2: Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	11	20.0
Married	41	74.6
Divorced	03	5.4
Total	55	100.0

Discussions of Findings

The Table and Bar Chart above shows that on Marital Status 11(20%) of the respondents are single, 41(74.6%) of the

respondents are Married and 3(5.4%) of the respondents are divorced. This means that on marital status the respondents were well represented and most of the respondents used for the study are married.

Table: 4.3: Occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentages
Farmers	35	63.7
Nomads	20	36.3
Total	55	100.0

Discussions of Findings

The Table above shows that on Occupation {35(63.7%)} of the respondents are Farmers while {20(36.3%)} of the respondents are Herders. The reason for this is not far fetch, the farmers are the indigene or resident in the area while most of the herders are nomadic in nature. They only come down to the west during the dry season in search of forage for their Cattles.

Table: 4.4: Educational Status

Edu., Status	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterates	07	12.7
Informal Education	18	32.7
Primary Edu.,	11	20.0
Secondary Edu.,	14	25.5
Tertiary Edu.,	05	9.1
Total	55	100.0

Discussions of Findings

The Table and Bar Chart above shows that on Education 7(12.7%) of the respondents are illiterates, 18(32.7%) of the respondents have informal education, 11(20%) of the respondents had Primary education, 14(25.5%) of the respondents had Secondary education and 5(9.1%) of the respondents had tertiary education. The high illiteracy level among the respondents implies that the cultivators and pastoralists are predominantly non-literates, indicating that many of the respondents may not know how to read and write. This could be inimical to hospitality and harmonious relationship among respondents, as it avails suspicion and misinterpretation of values and interests of parties in their livelihood practices and interactions if there is no constituted body to continually sensitize them on need for tolerance and ensure harmonious living as they undergo their livelihood practices.

Table: 4.5: Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentages
Muslims	36	65.4
Christians	09	16.4

Others	10	18.2
Total	55	100

Discussion of Findings

The above tables show the demographic distribution of the respondents on religion, it reveals that about 36(65.4%) of the respondents are Muslims; 9(16.4%) of the respondents are Christians and 10(18.2%) of the respondents are practitioners of other religion. These show that in Iseyin Local Government the majority are Muslims. This implies that the predominance of Islamic religion among the respondents could allow for the acceptability and dominance of nomadic herdsmen who have migrated from the Northern part of the country by the farmers who are the land owners, as adopted kith and kin, brethren of the same religious faith and it further helps confirm prior knowledge of Iseyin being a predominantly Muslim area.

Table: 4.6: Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentages
Male	41	74.6
Female	14	25.4
Total	55	100

Discussion of Findings

The above tables show the demographic distribution of the respondents on Gender, it revealed that about 41(74.6%) of the respondents male and 14(25.4%) of the respondents are female. The study revealed that there were more males than their female counterparts. The implication of this is that the larger percentage of the respondents being males depicts that farming and pastoralism are important livelihood activities for men in the study area. This corroborates the known fact that many Nigerian communities are patriarch in nature.

Table: 4.7: Farming/Herding Experience

	Frequency	Percentages
1-10	27	49.0
11-20	18	32.7
21-30	7	12.7
31-40	3	5.6
Total	55	100

Discussion of Findings

The above tables show the demographic distribution of the respondents on years spent on either farming or herding. It revealed that a high proportion of the respondents 27(49%) had 1-10 years of farming experience, 18(32.7%) had between 11-20 years of farming/herding experience, 7(12.7%) had between 21-30 years of experience while 3(5.6%) had 31-40 years farming/herding experience.

Table 4.8: What are the major causes of farmer/herders conflict in Iseyin Local Government Area, Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State?

Causes of Conflict	Frequency	Percentages
Crops damage	22	40.0
Cattle rustling and rural banditry	18	32.7
Water pollution	07	12.7
Grazing reserves	06	10.9
Drought and Desertification	02	3.7
Total	55	100.0

Discussion of Findings:

The result of Table 4.8 shows that majority of the respondents opined that destruction of crops were perceived to always 22(40%) caused farmer-herders conflict in the study area. Cattle rustling and rural banditry 18(32.7%) are responsible for the second most caused of the conflict and herders, 7(12.7%) of the respondents agreed that Water pollution was perceived as an important cause of conflict between farmers/herders; 6(10.9%) of the respondents agreed that absence of grazing reserve and 2(3.7%). The results indicates that issues challenging to the local community security and the farming enterprises of the respondents development are the increase in agitation for control of resources, encroachment of the rights of concerned parties through unstable claims and counter claims on land and water resources. The unspecified territorial boundaries for animal grazing and crop farming pressure by pastoralists and farmers through non-validated agreement on vital resources is in no mean measure reflecting tensions and varying degree of conflicts in agrarian environments. The result is in agreement with a study on farmer-pastoralist conflict in northern Nigeria, that destruction of crops is a major cause of conflict among farmers and pastoralist in Nigeria (Ofuoku, 2004).

This is congruent with Tonah (2006) who stated that the most frequent cause of such conflict is the destruction of crops by cattle. These cattle enter the farm to feed on the foliage of crop even in the presence of the herdsmen who pretend not to notice such destruction. This supports Hegberg (1998) who averred that in the pre harvest period, cattle frequently destroy or eat ripened crops as they are led from the field to their camps.

Table 4.9: What led to the establishment of Peaceful Co-existence Committee in Oyo State?

Factors	Frequency	Percentages
The insecurity in Oyo state	30	54.6
Farmers/herders conflict	08	14.6
To promote peace building initiatives	17	30.8
Total	55	100

The above tables show the demographic distribution of the respondents on the factors that led to the establishment of Peaceful Co-existence Committee in Oyo state. It reveals that {30(54.6%)} of the respondents agreed that the problem of insecurity in Oyo state was responsible for the establishment of PCC; {08(14.6%)} agreed that the problem of farmers/herders conflict and {17(30.8%)} of the respondents agreed that PCC was established to promote peace building initiative among the people of Oyo state.

Discussion of Findings

The first research question which want to investigate the factors that led to the establishment of Peaceful Co-existence Committee in Oyo state. The findings from the questionnaires revealed that majority of the respondents (54.6%) agreed that PCC was established to manage the problem of insecurity in the state. Issues bordering on local community security, safety and development are paramount in the enhancement of governance and increase or decrease in agitation for control of resources as well as encroachment of the rights of others. All these have implications for survival and struggles between or amongst communities. This was confirmed by the interview with Baale of Oshoogun Chief Banji Olalere. He said due to the insecurity in the state the government decided to establish the PCC to manage the problem of insecurity between the different groups in the state.

{8(14.6%)} agreed that PCC was established to managed the problem of farmers/herders conflict in Iseyin LG. Conflict between nomads and farmers have existed since the beginnings of agriculture and increased or decreased in intensity and frequency depending on economic, environmental and other factors. This conflict has constituted a great threat by putting great pressures on the land and thus provoking conflicts between them. Social and economic factors continue to provoke violent conflicts among the nomads and farmers. These conflicts have constituted serious threats to the means of survival and livelihoods of both the farmers and pastoralists and what both groups are tenaciously protecting and projecting. The conflicts, through provocative claims over access rights to farmland and cattle routes (*labi*), have become ubiquitous and seem to have defied solutions.

The clashes between farmers and nomads in Iseyin Oyo state Nigeria generally centre on access to and competition for grazing land and water. As pasture land shrinks, sequel to taking over of such lands by farmers, conflicts become inevitable. It is difficult, if not impossible, for the nomad pastoralists to move and graze without veering into crop fields. The interview conducted with AFAN chairman in ILG Prince Feyintola Sunday he said that the clashes between pastoral and farming communities linked to disputes over grazing land, have become frequent in parts of Iswyin Local government in Oyo State South West, Nigeria in recent years. PCC has helped tremendously to manage the dispute and promote peaceful coexistence between them. The interview with the president of Myetti Allah Association Chairman

Alhaji Yakubu he said PCC as also perform tremendously well in the area of conflict management between farmers and herders.

Table: 4.10. What role does PCC played in the management of crisis between farmers and herders in Iseyin Local Government?

The role of PCC	Frequency	Percentages
Investigation	19	34.6
Placing fine	09	16.4
Punishment	07	12.7
Settlement	20	36.3
Total	55	100.0

The above tables show the role PCC played in the management of crisis between farmers and herders in Iseyin Local Government. It reveals that {19(34.6%)} of the respondents agreed that it investigated the allegation of crisis between farmers and herders; {9(16.4%)} of the respondents agreed that it placed fine on the party that was responsible for the crisis, {7(12.7%)} agreed that they punished either farmers or herders who was found guilty and finally, {20(36.3%)} of the respondents agreed that it settled issues between farmers and herders in ILG.

Discussion of Findings

PCC performs the role of conflict management and promoting cordial relationship between different groups in ILG. CM is the process of planning to avoid conflict where possible and organizing to resolve conflict where it does happen, as rapidly and smoothly as possible. The establishment of Peaceful Co-existence Communities at the Local Government Level help farmers and herdsman to resolve conflict arising within them as a result of differences in opinion, interest, political ideology, scarcity of resources, attitudes, values or perceptions, disagreements about needs, goals, priorities and interests, poor communication, poor or inadequate organizational structure, lack of teamwork, lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities.

According to the Director of Agriculture in ILG D.A Opabunmi, he said Peaceful Co-existence Committee has discourages farmers or herdsman from using self-help which it is an attempt to unilaterally address the source of conflict through the use of force by the aggrieved party. The farmer or herder as the case may be will use force or any other means at their disposal to address grievances and achieve their goals. PCC rather encourage them to report their grievances to their association to represent their interest. The Farmers or Herders Union are two important associations that help to manage conflict between farmers and herders as they wield great power and influence on their members. The Union brings the problem to PCC who investigate the allegation and if true will compel the accused to pay fine called damages in law.

Another interview conducted with the AFAN chairman Prince Feyintola, he said PCC helped a great deal in settling the conflict between farmers and herdsman. The committee has

representatives of both farmers and herders in it. So they are actively involved in investigating, settling and placing a fine on any herder or farmer who was guilty of an allegation. The management of conflict through third party is very common in Iseyin local government. The third parties who may be well known to the farmers and herders are usually accepted by them because they are believed to play a neutral and objective role in the management of conflict between both parties.

Table: 4.10: What are the challenges to PCC in the management of conflict between farmers-herders in Iseyin Local Government area of Oyo State, south west Nigeria

Challenges	Frequency	Percentages
Inadequate funding	17	30.9
Lack of vehicle	09	16.4
Problem of Implementation	06	10.9
Weak legal system/security agency	23	41.8
Total	55	100

The above tables show the respondents responses on the challenges to PCC in the management of conflict between farmers-herders in Iseyin Local Government area of Oyo State, south west Nigeria. It reveals that {17(30.9%)} of the respondents agreed that the problem of inadequate funding, {9(16.4%)} agreed that the problem of lack of vehicle was a major challenge in managing conflict between farmers and herdsman, {6(10.9%)} of the respondents agreed that problem of implementation and finally, 23(41.8%) of the respondents agreed that weak legal system and poor security agencies was a major factor impeding the effective performance of PCC in the management of conflict between herdsman and farmers.

Discussion of Findings

The conflict between farmers and nomads continue to happen in different part of the country in-spite of the different measures put by the government to mange it, there seems to be continue conflict between them. The measures put in place to manage the conflict between farmers and herders as failed to achieve optimum result because of a number of the factors. According to the Head of Farmers Association, he said some of the measures will never work the people who are suppose to execute them are not objective in their implementation. The Nigeria Police Force according to him was very bias in the management of conflict between farmers and herders; they arrest and leave herders who have been accused of allowing their cattle to eat up farmers' crops in-spite of the concrete evidence before them. The police also complained of many logistics inadequacy which make them unable to respond to distress call or prosecute herders. The chairman also said the one of the police officers who is a friend revealed to him that some powerful individuals within the society do call them to release these herders.

The court is therefore an official channel established by the government to manage conflict between farmers and herders

as it as the power based on evidence brought before it to punish, exonerate, and award compensation to abused farmers of herders. The magistrate, customary, high and other courts in the land has helped to manage conflict between farmers and herders. The court system was also very expensive and slow in the handling of matters brought before it. A matter brought before the court could take years before it passes judgment on it. This was not encouraging as some of these farmers are not wealthy and could not foot all the court bills. The transfer of cases from one judge to another, frequent strikes embarked upon by the judiciary were all factors affecting the use of the court as an institution of conflict management.

The interview with Baba Prince Feyintola said inadequate funding and the problem of lack of vehicle was negatively affecting the role of PCC in carrying out their functions. The PCC according to him will sometimes hire motorbike to go and do investigations. The PCC members have were not given even transport allowance and refreshment for a meeting that comes up every Wednesday and last for five hours.

The government also helps to manage conflict arising between or within individuals, groups or organization in the State. The governments do set up different fact finding committees or peaceful resolution committee and do delegate power to them to investigate and punish anyone who breaks the law. The Local government which is the third of government and the closet to the people has over the years help to manage conflict between farmers and herders in Iseyin Local Government and other areas. The Local Government does establish a committee that will comprises of all the major stakeholders in the committee to constitute the committee, the committee do not have the power to enforce their decisions on the parties.

V. CONCLUSION

The crisis between farmers and herders has degenerated into violent conflicts in Oyo State and other part of Nigeria. These conflicts have become more intense, widespread and destructive. All these have exacerbated chronic insecurity that have encouraged the conflicting parties to take responsibility for their own security and to defend themselves leading to the establishment of PCC. The research concludes that it is in the interest of the State to strengthen the functions of PCC and make them performs better in carrying out their functions, thereby promoting peaceful co-existence among farmers and herders and even between different groups in the community.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

This has been the bane of sustainable peace and progress in most parts of Oyo State. As a panacea to this problem, the research recommends as follows:

Effective regulation of grazing and farming activities in ILG area of Oyo State through efficient land-use laws/legislations and administration; creation of grazing reserves and dedicated grazing routes in order to solve the issue of herd's encroachment on farmlands and vice versa; sensitization of

stakeholders farmers and herders alike on the need for mutual co-existence and peace; this would help to forestall needless provocations and opportunistic violence; There is need for viable NGOs on farmer-herdsmen conflict management, especially in the areas of awareness, education, prevention, and amelioration. Availing extension personnel with conflict coping mechanisms through attendance of related seminar and conferences. By so doing, extension personnel would be able to teach farmers and herders on conflict coping mechanisms and educating both parties on the need for peaceful co-existence and mutual understanding.

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Key Informant Interview respondents

1. Iseyin Local Government Chairman Alhaji Adejare Yussuf
2. Director of Agriculture Iseyin Local Government D.A. Opabunmi
3. Baale of Oshoogun Chief Olalere Banji.
4. Myetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) chairman Alhaji Yakubu
5. All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) chairman Prince Feyintola