



The Impact of Herders/Farmers Migration Contact and the Crisis of Food Security in F.C.T, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Impact of herders/farmers migration contact and the crisis of food security is the focus of this article. Extant literature suggests that the struggle for access to and denial from scarce resources, occasioned by climate change, herders/farmers migration contact, environmental degradation, and weak land tenure systems, escalates space ownership and use crises, exacerbate violent clashes heightened fear and restriction that negatively affect access to farm land, farm production and food security across some regions and countries particularly in Africa, especially Nigeria. Although authorities have made attempts to ensure that peace returned to the area and that the internally displaced persons return from camps to their homes and farms, this reality seems not to have yielded meaningful results as most people are yet to return. Hence, this study seeks to assess the impact of herders/farmers migration contact crises on food security in the FCT, Abuja. Drawing from the foregoing, the paper examines the causes of herders/farmers migration crises, it interrogates the impact of herders/farmers migration crises on the availability and affordability of food, identify strategies being deployed by stakeholders to mitigate the impact of herders/farmers migration contact crises and explore alternative strategies to control/eradicate herders/farmers migration crises to ensure food security. Using conflict theory, food security theory and social capital theory, descriptive design combine questionnaire for quantitative data gathering and pie charts as well as frequency distribution tables, Chi-square test combined with descriptive statistical tools (mean and standard deviation) for testing the hypothesis, proffered expected outcome that Herders-farmers' migration crisis has a negative effect on food security followed by outbreak of herders-farmers migration crisis has a negative impact on the level of food production.

Keywords:

*Herders/farmers,
Conflict,
Migration,
Contact crisis,
Food security,
Nigeria*

Introduction

Before oil and some other minerals were discovered, agricultural sector was undoubtedly the most popular source of revenue and food security in most regions and countries of the world. Until when oil was discovered in Nigeria, Agriculture was the mainstay of Nigerian economy comprising of sedentary and pastoral farm. The nomadic pastoralism practiced by herders rearing livestock has been characterized by seasonal movement in search of grazing land and water for their cattle. The contact with farmers who farm food crops in their farm space has generated crisis of confidence and toleration. Farm space becomes vulnerable to the disruptions caused by the livestock, herders unapologetically rear their animals across farm spaces aggravating the anger of the farmers whose crops often get damaged providing basis for crisis (Ojo, 2021). This traditional system of livestock farming increasingly becomes incompatible with the growing demand for land for farming, driven by population growth and urbanization. The FCT, with its expanding urban footprint and peri-urban competitive agricultural activities, presents a microcosm of this larger national challenge (Mortimore, 2003).

The disruption of agricultural activities, particularly in rural areas surrounding the FCT, has direct implications for food supply chains and access to food in the urban center. The crisis has led to a decline in agricultural productivity, loss of income for both farmers and herders, and increased food prices in local markets (Abdullahi & Adebayo, 2017). This situation disproportionately affects vulnerable populations in the FCT, including low-income households, internally displaced persons, and those reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Nuhu (2018) asserted that, movement of herders from one area of the country to another is usually caused by the increasing demand for fresh grazing grounds especially during draught periods or dry seasons, when the herders move southwards because of the availability of pasture. In most cases, the herders encountered problems with the local people because farmers' crops were destroyed by their cattle (Paul, 2015). Geo-politically, Nigeria is made up of six geopolitical zones with the North-Central Region having six states which include: Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau states. Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory Abuja is

also located in the region of the country. The region lies completely in the central portion of Nigeria. As a combination of two vegetation belts, half portion of this region fall within the Sudan savannah while the remaining half within the Guinea savannah (Adeleke, 2014). The vegetation of the region is a wonderful blessing to the people of the area-for it being bestowed on them, a fertile soil conducive for serious agricultural production. Grasses in this region which are green and fresh throughout the seasons provide one of the best forages for animal consumption in the whole of Nigeria and sub-Saharan region of Africa. Grassland in the Benue and Niger rivers provide the best grazing site in the country and the whole of western Sudan.

The agricultural potentials of the region ahead of other parts of the country is glaring and Benue in particular with food production capacity sound enough to feed the whole of West African sub-region is code named the "Food Basket of the Nigerian Nation". Nigeria's two major rivers (Rivers Benue and Niger) flow across the region and this additional reason make the region richly endowed in water resources and fertile land suitable for crop and animal production. Niger State within the region boast of three gigantic Dams (Kainji, Shiroro and Gurara Dams) providing Hydro Electricity Power to all the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

Farmers have their crops to protect and Herdsmen have their livestock to protect. This simply implies that value of land for both crop and animal production is increasing across Nigeria. But then, Herdsmen have been present to varying degree in all the thirty-six states across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria including Abuja the nation's Federal Capital Territory. And in all these regions, conflict between them and farmers have been reported on several and different occasions. But the occurrence of such confrontation in the north central region of the country surpassed that of the other regions of Nigeria put together (Adeleke, 2014). The pressure on land is increasing the movement of herdsmen from the Sahel region of the country to the vast grassland in the central area of the country.

However, while authorities have made attempts to ensure that peace returned to the area and that the internally displaced persons return from camps to their homes and farms, the reality seems not to have yielded meaningful results as most people are yet to

return. This in turn affects the population of the area and food security. This increase in movement is often accompanied with pressure on available land in the central region of the country. The scale of deaths incurred have always created tensions on how a seemingly previously contained conflict could lead to massacres that today stands as one of the major threats to national security, peace and unity in Nigeria. Investigating alternative measures that can be adopted to avoid future re-occurrence of the conflict is the task which the Researcher intends to achieve in this research. Understanding the specific socio-economic and environmental factors driving the conflict in the FCT is crucial for developing context-specific interventions. It is against this background that this study seeks to assess the impact of herders/farmers migration contact crises on food security in the FCT, Abuja. It is against the foregoing that the following research objectives evolved as follows, to:

- i. Find out the causes of herders/farmers migration crises.
- ii. Examine the impact of herders/farmers migration crises on the availability and affordability of food.
- iii. Identify strategies being deployed by stakeholders to mitigate the impact of herders/farmers migration contact crises.
- iv. Explore alternative strategies to control/eradicate herders/farmers migration crises to ensure food security.

Research Hypotheses: Two null research hypotheses were formulated at 0.05 level of significance to guide the study.

Hypothesis One: H_{01} : 'Herders-farmers' migration crisis has a negative effect on food security in F.C.T, Abuja.

H_{02} : The outbreak of 'herders-farmers' migration crisis has a negative impact on the level of food production in F.C.T, Abuja.

Methods and materials: Using Conflict Theory by Karl Marx, Food Security Theory by Amartya Sen in 1981 and Social Capital Theory by Robert Putnam in 1993, with the combination of descriptive survey design, simple random sampling technique to obtain sample size of hundred (100) respondents who were administered hundred questionnaires (100) with 75% return rate. A point Likert Scale type questionnaire with responses; Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagreed used to collect data from

the respondents. The data obtained from the instrument were analyzed using pie charts and frequency distribution tables, Chi-square test combined with descriptive statistical tools (mean and standard deviation) for testing the hypothesis.

Response Rate

Questionnai re printed	Questionnai re distributed	Questionnai re returned	Respon se Rate
264 Copies	264 Copies	264Copies	100%

Source: compiled by Researcher, 2024

Literature Review

Concept of Conflict: Conflicts occur as a result of inequalities among ethnic groups. Conflicts or dysfunctional disputes usually occur between groups of people and could be ethnic, religious, demographic, cultural (chieftaincy), political, economic or civic. Such disputes or conflicts occur at urban, rural or national levels. They may also be over farmlands, ponds, rivers or sites of construction of houses among others. Such disputes may last longer than necessary and is capable of hindering rural development in spite of other efforts. Akinibi and Akinola (2019) define conflict as a situation of disagreement, fighting or even outright war. North (2018) observes that conflict occur when two or more person (or groups) seek to possess the same objects, occupy the same space or the same exclusive position, play incompatible roles, maintain incompatible goals, or undertake mutually incompatible means for achieving their purposes. In his own submission, Bujra (2012) in looking at the various forms of conflict in Africa describes conflict "to mean a violent and armed confrontation and struggle between groups, between the state and one or more groups, and between two or more states. In such confrontation and struggle some of those involved are injured and killed.

Conflict between grazers and cultivators in Nigeria, especially in the Benue Valley; usually result to loss of lives and properties of schools (Tenuche & Ifatimehim, 2019). More so, insecurity in many Northern states (a consequence of the grazers/cultivator's conflict in the North east and of less-well-reported rural banditry and cattle rustling in the North-west and North-Central zones) also prompts increasing numbers of herdsmen to migrate south. The growth of human settlements, expansion of public infrastructure and acquisition of land by large-scale farmers and other private commercial interests, have deprived herders of grazing reserves

designated by the post-independence government of the former Northern region (now split into nineteen states). This is capable of causing conflict among grazers and cultivators which may affect effective management of schools.

Herders migrating into the savannah and rain forests of the central and southern states according to Kato (2017) are moving into regions where high population growth over the last four decades has heightened pressure on farmland, increasing the frequency of disputes over crop damage, water pollution and cattle theft. As these conflicts increase in frequency, intensity and geographical scope, so does their humanitarian and economic toll. The increasing availability of illicit firearms, both locally-produced and smuggled in from outside, worsens the bloodshed. Over the past five years, thousands have been killed including students and teachers; precise tallies are unavailable, but a survey of open-source reports suggests fatalities may have reached an annual average of more than 2,000 from 2011 to 2016, for some years exceeding the toll from other insurgency. Tens of thousands have been forcibly displaced, with school properties destroyed, crops and livestock worth billions of naira destroyed.

According to Adogi (2013), conflicts between grazers and cultivators in Benue State have been on the rise since the 1990s. Adogi further posits that Nigeria in general and Benue State in particular, has experienced resource-related communal clashes (often mis-represented or mis-interpreted as ethnic, political and religious clashes) since the beginning of the 1990s. Moreover, cases of grazers/cultivator's conflicts seem widespread in recent times. Vast geographical area of Benue State has placed cultivators in a situation that seem to compel them to live with the grazers particularly during the dry season (November to April). Furthermore, that the grazers still practice the free-range system, they move from one place to another in search of pasture and water. This usually forced them to migrate from far North to Benue valley, where both pasture and water resources can be found. This has increased the competition for arable land between grazers/cultivators resulting to hostility and social friction among the two user groups in the Benue State which seem to impact negatively or positively on the effectiveness and efficiency of school management.

The herdsmen and farmer's crisis in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja has been a recurring issue, posing significant threats to food security in the region. The crisis stems from various factors, including:

1. Land scarcity and competition: The increasing population and urbanization in Abuja have led to a shortage of grazing land for Fulani herdsmen, causing them to encroach on farmlands, resulting in conflicts with farmers (Adebayo, 2017).

2. Cultural and ethnic differences: The Fulani herdsmen, predominantly nomadic pastoralists, have different cultural and ethnic backgrounds than the farmers, leading to misunderstandings and clashes (Igbo, 2018).

3. Resource competition: The competition for scarce resources such as water, land, and pasture has exacerbated tensions between the two groups (Olaniyi, 2017).

4. Climate change: The effects of climate change have led to desertification, reducing grazing land and water sources, forcing herdsmen to migrate southward, leading to conflicts with farmers (IPCC, 2019).

5. Poor governance and policy: Inadequate policies and lack of effective governance have failed to address the root causes of the crisis, leading to a cycle of violence and retaliation (Akeju, 2018).

6. Economic interests: The struggle for control of lucrative cattle routes and markets has contributed to the conflict (Idris, 2019).

7. Historical grievances: Unaddressed historical grievances and perceived injustices have fuelled tensions between the two groups (Ocholi, 2019).

These factors have resulted in violent clashes, displacement of people, and loss of livelihoods, ultimately affecting food security in the FCT Abuja. Addressing these underlying causes is crucial to finding a lasting solution to the crisis.

Strategies being Deployed by Stakeholders to Mitigate the Impact of Fulani- Herders/Farmers Conflict

The conflict between herdsmen and farmers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja has been a recurring issue, posing significant threats to food security, human lives, and economic development in the region. The clashes between the two groups have resulted in the destruction of farmlands,

livestock, and crops, leading to food shortages and increased prices.

To mitigate the impact of this conflict, various stakeholders have deployed different strategies, including:

1. Dialogue and Mediation: Stakeholders have engaged in dialogue and mediation efforts to resolve the conflict peacefully. For example, the FCT Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has organized meetings between Fulani herdsmen and farmers to address their grievances and find mutually beneficial solutions (FMARD, 2018).

2. Establishment of Grazing Reserves: The FCT Administration has established grazing reserves to provide a designated area for Fulani herdsmen to graze their cattle, reducing the encroachment on farmlands (FCTA, 2019).

3. Agricultural Extension Services: Agricultural extension agents have been deployed to provide farmers with training and support on best practices, improving agricultural productivity and reducing the risk of conflict (Adebayo, 2017).

4. Livestock Breeding Programs: Stakeholders have initiated livestock breeding programs to improve the quality and quantity of livestock, reducing the need for Fulani herdsmen to migrate to other areas in search of grazing land (Idris, 2019).

5. Community-Based Initiatives: Community-based initiatives have been established to promote peaceful coexistence between Fulani herdsmen and farmers, including the formation of community associations and peace committees (Ocholi, 2019).

6. Policy Interventions: Policy interventions have been made to address the root causes of the conflict, including the development of policies on land use, agriculture, and livestock production (Akeju, 2018).

7. Security Measures: Security measures have been put in place to protect lives and property, including the deployment of security personnel to conflict-prone areas (Usman, 2018).

Herders/Farmers Crises and Farm Settlements Security: The conflict between herdsmen and farmers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja has posed significant threats to farm settlement security in the region. The clashes between the two groups have resulted in the destruction of farmlands, livestock, and crops, leading to food shortages and increased prices. This

conflict has also led to the displacement of people, loss of livelihoods, and human rights violations. The effects of this conflict on farm settlement security in FCT Abuja are multifaceted and far-reaching. Include:

1. Destruction of Farmlands and Crops: The conflict has resulted in the destruction of farmlands and crops, leading to food shortages and reduced agricultural productivity (Adebayo, 2017).

2. Loss of Livestock: The conflict has also led to the loss of livestock, which is a significant source of income for many farmers (Okoli, 2018).

3. Displacement of People: The conflict has resulted in the displacement of people, leading to a humanitarian crisis (Abdullahi, 2018).

4. Human Rights Violations: The conflict has also led to human rights violations, including the killing and maiming of people (Ocholi, 2019).

5. Reduced Agricultural Productivity: The conflict has reduced agricultural productivity, leading to food shortages and increased prices (Igbo, 2018).

6. Increased Insecurity: The conflict has increased insecurity in farm settlements, making it difficult for farmers to access their farmlands (Mohammed, 2019).

7. Economic Losses: The conflict has resulted in significant economic losses for farmers, including the loss of income and livelihoods (Akeju, 2018).

Food Security: According to World Bank (2001), food security can be categorized into three; food availability, food accessibility and food affordability. Food availability generally means that the household have enough food to go round to every member of the family. Meaning every member of a family have sufficient food at a particular time. The second category is food accessibility. How accessible is the food? Does the family have easy access to food? The third categorization is food affordability which means the household capability to purchase food for immediate consumption. Thereby, food security means having physical and economic access to enough food for every member of the household with access to the means of purchasing the food (Sen, 1981). The idea of food security has gone beyond the requirement of food being a substance for survival. The modern connotation of food security includes eating at a level that is suitable for the mental, physical and biological health and

wellbeing of an individual. This connotation also includes the right to eat the food that is culturally acceptable by the individual. This also includes eating the proper ratio that the body need for survival (Robertson, 1990).

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Africa, (1986) defined food security as 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”. Food security is dependent on agricultural production, food importation and donations, employment opportunities and income earnings, intra-household decision-making and resource allocation, health care utilization and caring practices (Maxwell and Frankenberger, 1992). Food security cuts across different dimensions. Food security is a situation whereby an individual has adequate access to food for healthy living and also to promote his or her wellbeing. From the foregoing, we can divide food security into 2 complex concepts; food availability and nutritional value of the food. The food should have sufficient nutrient for a better and sustainable health and living. To set a target for food security is a complex task which might be difficult to achieve. This is so because there is multiple determinants of food security for members of a household. NEPAD (2015) says that food security requires that food is readily available and accessible at any given time. However, there are certain factors that hamper local, regional, national and international level of food supply. Some of these factors are climate and climate changes, trade restrictions and embargos, the agricultural practice etc.

At the local level, food security is basically direct access to food. At the national level there are a lot of indices to food security, so also at the international level. The government at the national level plays a significant role in the availability of food through governmental policies like creating a competitive market for the farmers which will eventually lead to food availability which will ultimately lead to food accessibility and affordability. Food security is directly linked to the social wellbeing of an individual and also the economic needs of the society/community. On the final note, Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO, (2013) defined food insecurity as a situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for

normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. It may be caused by the unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power, inappropriate distribution or inadequate use of food at the household level. Food insecurity, poor conditions of health and sanitation and inappropriate care and feeding practices are the major causes of poor nutritional status. Food insecurity may be chronic, seasonal or transitory. The insecurity of food abnormality in Nigeria has been intensified by the occurrence of continuous communal clashes between herders and community farmers. This has not only affected food availability; it has hindered food accessibility and sufficiency.

The conflict between Fulani herdsmen and farmers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja has had a devastating impact on the availability and affordability of food in the region. The clashes between the two groups have resulted in the destruction of farmlands, livestock, and crops, leading to food shortages and increased prices. This report examines the effects of the conflict on food availability and affordability in FCT Abuja, with a focus on the following aspects:

1. Food shortages and scarcity: The impact of the conflict on crop yields and livestock production, leading to food shortages and scarcity (Adebayo., 2017).

2. Price increases and inflation: The effect of the conflict on food prices, leading to inflation and reduced purchasing power for consumers (Idris, I., 2019).

3. Disruption of food supply chains: The impact of the conflict on food supply chains, leading to delays and inefficiencies in food distribution (Olaniyi, 2017).

4. Impact on vulnerable populations: The effects of the conflict on vulnerable populations, including the poor, women, and children, who are most affected by food shortages and price increases (Abdullahi, 2018).

5. Economic implications: The economic implications of the conflict on the agricultural sector, including losses in revenue and productivity (Akeju, 2018).

6. Long-term consequences: The long-term consequences of the conflict on food security and sustainability in FCT Abuja, including the potential for future conflicts and food crises (Igbo, 2018).

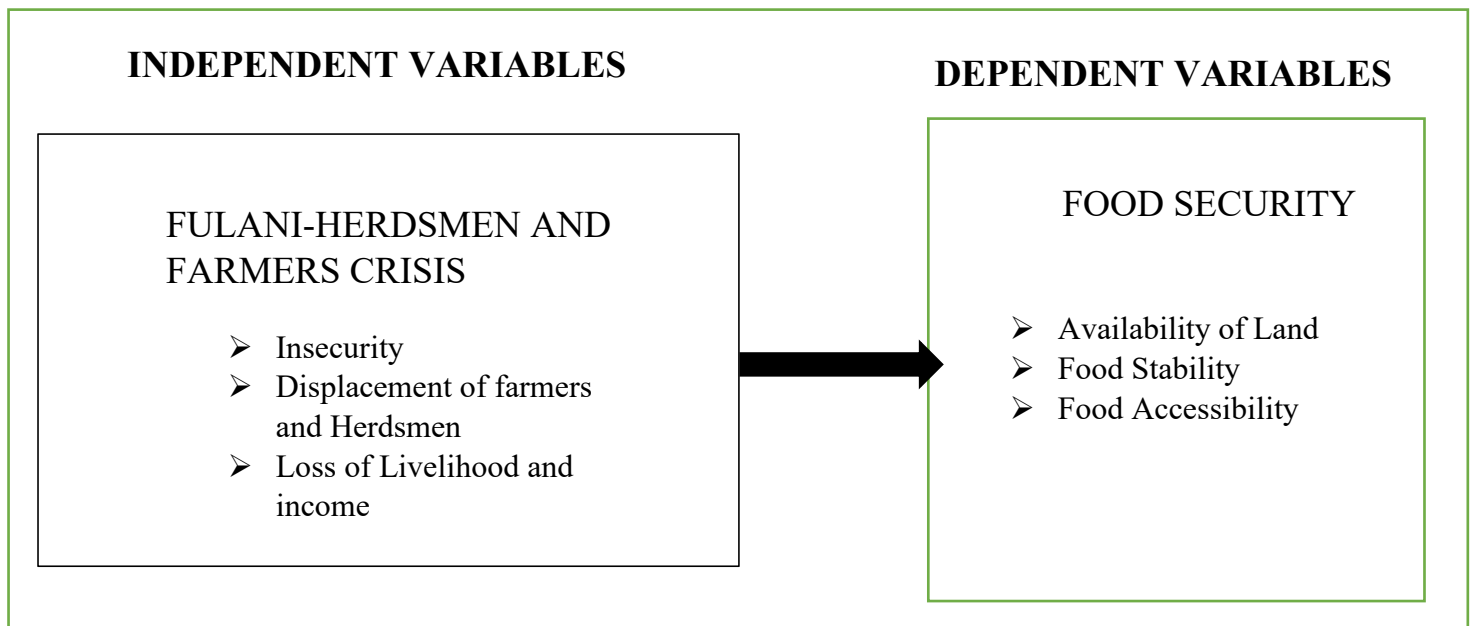
7. Recommendations and solutions:

Recommendations and solutions to address the impact of the conflict on food availability and affordability, including policy interventions, community engagement, and conflict resolution strategies (FMARD, 2018).

The conflict between Fulani herdsmen and farmers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja has

had a devastating impact on the availability and affordability of food in the region. The clashes between the two groups have resulted in the destruction of farmlands, livestock, and crops, leading to food shortages and increased prices.

Conceptual Model



This model was conceptualized by researchers to explain the variables used in this study. The model examines the relationship between Herdsmen and farmers crisis on food security. This implies that Herdsmen and farmers crisis are interconnected to dependent variables.

Theoretical Framework

The Food Security Theory (Amartya Sen in 1981): The Food Security Theory was propounded by Amartya Sen in 1981. Sen, an Indian economist and philosopher, argued that food security is not just about the availability of food, but also about access to food, utilization of food, and stability of food supplies (Sen, 1981).

That food security here encompasses not only the availability of food but also access, utilization, and stability of food supplies makes it relevant. Individuals' rights, access, and capabilities to food are crucial in achieving food security. Certain groups, such as the poor, women, and children, are more vulnerable to food insecurity. The right to food, life, and dignity are essential in achieving food security. Individuals' education, health, and social networks play a critical role in achieving food security. Food security is a dynamic concept therefore; it is affected by various factors, including

economic, social, and environmental changes. Addressing food insecurity requires a comprehensive approach that considers all aspects of food security, including availability, access, utilization, and stability. Achieving food security is essential for overall development, including economic growth, poverty reduction, and human well-being. This interpretation highlights the complexity of food security and the need for a comprehensive approach to address food insecurity, considering all aspects of food security and the vulnerabilities of different groups.

In conclusion, the Food Security Theory is highly relevant to the research topic "Effect of Fulani Herdsmen and Farmer's Crisis on Food Security in FCT, Abuja" because it provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the complex effects of the crisis on food security. It highlights the importance of considering food availability, access, utilization, and stability in assessing the impact of the crisis. It also emphasizes the vulnerability of

certain groups, including farmers, herders, and their families. Furthermore, it raises important questions about entitlements to land, resources, and food.

The Social Capital Theory (Robert Putnam in 1993): The Social Capital Theory was propounded by Robert Putnam in 1993. Putnam, an American political scientist, defined social capital as "the networks, norms, and trust that enable cooperation and coordination for mutual benefit" (Putnam, 2000).

In the Social Capital Theory, networks, norms, and trust are essential for achieving collective goals and promoting social cohesion. Social capital facilitates cooperation and coordination among individuals and groups, leading to mutually beneficial outcomes. Trust is the foundation of social capital, enabling individuals to work together and rely on each other. Social capital is built on the expectation of reciprocity, where individuals help others with the understanding that they will be helped in return. The theory facilitates collective action, allowing individuals and groups to work together to achieve common goals. In addition, social capital fosters social cohesion by creating a sense of belonging and shared identity among community members. Social capital can bridge social divides by connecting individuals from different backgrounds and promoting social integration.

Summary of Gaps in Literature: This literature review highlights the "Effect of Herdsmen and farmers Crisis on Food Security in F.C.T, Abuja". It shows that land scarcity and competition, cultural and ethnic differences, resource competition, climate change among others are factors that have resulted in violent clashes, displacement of people, and loss of livelihoods, ultimately affecting food

Demographic Profile of Respondents

Table 4.1 Gender Distribution of Respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	152	57.6	57.6	57.6
	Female	112	42.4	42.4	100.0
	Total	264	100.0	100.0	

Source: compiled by Researcher, 2024

Table 4.1 shows the gender demographics of respondents. It shows that 152 (57.6%) of the respondents are male and 112 (42.4%) of the respondents are female.

The implication of the finding indicates that; male respondents are predominant in the study.

security in the FCT Abuja. Addressing these underlying causes is crucial to finding a lasting solution to the crisis. The literature review further, reveals that the conflict between herdsmen and farmers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja has had a devastating impact on the availability and affordability of food in the region. The clashes between the two groups have resulted in the destruction of farmlands, livestock, and crops, leading to food shortages and increased prices.

The research was built on the Conflict Theory, Food Security Theory and Social Capital Theory. Conflict theory, rooted in the works of Karl Marx, interprets society as a system of inequality and oppression, where social order is maintained through coercion, manipulation, and exploitation of the subordinate classes by the dominant classes. Conflict arises from the contradictions between different social classes, particularly between the bourgeoisie (ruling class) and the proletariat (working class). Scarcity of resources fuels competition, leading to conflict between individuals and groups. In recent times, there have been scanty literatures on the topic in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja and that is why the researcher seeks to investigate the effect of farmers-herdsmen conflict and its effect on food scarcity in the Territory.

Presentation, analysis and interpretation of data

Data presentation: Data collected from the field were organized and presented in frequency tables showing percentages to facilitate data analysis. The following tables show the analysis of the data collected from the respondents. Data from the study were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Table 4.2 Age Distribution of Respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	below 25years of Age	38	14.4	14.4	14.4
	26-35years	86	32.6	32.6	47.0
	36years and above	140	53.0	53.0	100.0
	Total	264	100.0	100.0	

Source: compiled by Researcher, 2024

Table 4.2 shows age distribution of respondents 38 (14.4%) of the respondents are below 25 years of age, 86 (32.6%) of the respondents are between 26-35 years, 140 (53.0%) of the respondents are between 36 years and above. This implies that respondents within the ages of 36 years and above participated most in this research. They were predominant.

Table 4.3 Distribution of Respondents base on Religion

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Christianity	138	52.3	52.3	52.3
	Islam	114	43.2	43.2	95.5
	ATR	12	4.5	4.5	100.0
	Total	264	100.0	100.0	

Source: compiled by Researcher, 2024

Table 4.3 shows distribution of respondent's base on religion. 138 (52.3%) of the respondents are Christian, 114 (43.2%) of the respondents were Muslim, and 12 (4.5%) of the respondents were Africa tradition religion.

Answering the research questions

Research Question One: What are the causes of Herdsmen and farmers conflict in F.C.T, Abuja?

Table 4.4.1 causes of Herdsmen and farmers conflict in F.C.T, Abuja

ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN	STD	DECISION
Cultural and ethnic differences	75 (28.4)	95 (36.0)	64 (24.2)	30 (11.4)	2.81	0.975	Low perception
Land scarcity and competition	84 (31.8)	100 (37.9)	48 (18.2)	32 (12.1)	2.89	0.989	High perception
Poor governance and policy	88 (33.3)	90 (34.1)	57 (21.6)	29 (11.0)	2.90	0.991	High perception
Resource competition	88 (33.3)	90 (34.1)	64 (24.2)	22 (8.3)	2.92	0.952	High perception
Economics interests	88 (33.3)	95 (36.0)	62 (23.5)	19 (7.2)	2.95	0.926	High perception

Source: compiled by Researcher, 2024

Table 4.4.1 above shows the causes of herdsmen and farmers conflict in F.C.T, Abuja. The respondents indicated that cultural and ethnic differences scored a mean of $\bar{x} = 2.81$, Land scarcity and competition score a mean of $\bar{x} = 2.89$, poor governance and policy had a mean of $\bar{x} = 2.90$, resource competition

recorded a mean of $\bar{c} = 2.92$), also economics interests score a mean of $\bar{c} = 2.95$). In addition to the above, the results, as indicated in percentages, 37.9% have identified Land scarcity and competition as the major causes of conflict between Herdsmen and farmers in Abuja. This is followed by 36.0% of the respondents sees economics interests and cultural and ethnic differences respectively, 34.1% sees the cause as poor governance and policy and resource competition respectively,

Research Question Two: What is the impact of the Herdsmen and farmers conflict on the availability and affordability of food in F.C.T, Abuja?

Table 4.4.2 effect of famers-herdsmen conflicts on food security

ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN	STD	DECISION
Food shortages and scarcity	92 (34.8)	100 (37.9)	57 (21.6)	15 (5.7)	3.02	0.891	High perception
Price increases and inflation	88 (33.3)	105 (39.8)	62 (23.5)	9 (3.4)	3.03	0.840	High perception
Disruption of food supply chains	88 (33.3)	100 (37.9)	65 (24.6)	4.2 (11.0)	3.00	0.865	High perception
Impact on vulnerable populations	88 (33.3)	95 (36.0)	56 (21.2)	25 (9.5)	2.93	0.961	Low perception
Economic implications	88 (33.3)	110 (41.7)	45 (17.0)	21 (8.0)	3.00	0.908	High perception

Source: compiled by Researcher, 2024

Table 4.4.2 above shows the impact of the herdsmen and farmers conflict on the availability and affordability of food in F.C.T, Abuja. The respondents indicated that food shortages and scarcity scored a mean of $\bar{c} = 3.02$), price increases and inflation score a mean of $\bar{c} = 3.03$), disruption of food supply chains had a mean of $\bar{c} = 3.00$), impact on vulnerable populations recorded a mean of $\bar{c} = 2.93$), and economic implications score a mean of $\bar{c} = 3.00$). In addition to the above, the results, as indicated in percentages, 41.7% have identified economic implications as the major impact of the herdsmen and farmers conflict on the availability and affordability of food in F.C.T, Abuja. This is followed by 39.8% of the respondents sees Price increases and inflation, 37.9% of the respondents sees food shortages and scarcity, and disruption of food supply chains respectively, 36.0% sees impact on vulnerable population. Research Question Three: What are the strategies deployed by stakeholders to mitigate the impact of Herdsmen and farmers conflict in F.C.T, Abuja?

Table 4.4.3 Strategies deployed by stakeholders to mitigate the impact of Herdsmen and farmers conflict in F.C.T, Abuja

ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN	STD	DECISION
Through Dialogue and Mediation	92 (34.8)	92 (34.8)	63 (23.9)	17 (6.4)	2.98	0.921	Low perception
Through establishment of Grazing Reserves	104 (39.4)	95 (36.0)	51 (19.3)	14 (5.3)	3.09	0.891	High perception
Through agricultural Extension Services	81 (30.7)	124 (47.0)	34 (12.9)	25 (9.5)	2.99	0.904	Low perception
Policy Interventions	92 (34.8)	105 (39.8)	45 (17.0)	22 (8.3)	3.01	0.925	Low perception
Security Measures	88 (33.3)	112 (42.4)	45 (17.0)	19 (7.2)	3.02	0.891	High perception

Source: compiled by Researcher, 2024

Table 4.4.3 shows the strategies deployed by stakeholders to mitigate impact of Herdsmen and farmers conflict in F.C.T, Abuja.

The respondents indicated that through dialogue and mediation had a mean of ($\bar{x} = 2.98$), through establishment of grazing reserves scored a mean of ($\bar{x} = 3.092$), through agricultural extension services recorded a mean of ($\bar{x} = 2.99$), policy interventions had a mean of ($\bar{x} = 3.01$), and security measures recorded a mean of ($\bar{x} = 3.02$).

Furthermore, 39.4% respondents strongly agree that through establishment of grazing reserves could help mitigate impact of Herdsmen and farmers conflict in F.C.T, Abuja. While 34.8 % of the respondents strongly agreed that through dialogue and Mediation as well as policy interventions could mitigate the impact of Herdsmen and farmers' conflict. 33.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that security measures are the way out.

Research Question four: What are the effects that Herdsmen and farmers crises pose to the farm security settlements in F.C.T, Abuja?

Table 4.4.4 effects of the farmer-herdsmen crises pose to the farm security settlements

Source: compiled by Researcher, 2024

ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN	STD	DECISION
Destruction of Farmlands and Crops	92 (34.8)	100 (37.9)	57 (21.6)	15 (5.7)	3.02	0.891	High perception
Loss of Livestock	88 (33.3)	105 (39.8)	62 (23.5)	9 (3.4)	3.03	0.840	High perception
Displacement of People	88 (33.3)	100 (37.9)	65 (24.6)	4.2 (11.0)	3.00	0.865	High perception
Human Rights Violations	88 (33.3)	95 (36.0)	56 (21.2)	25 (9.5)	2.93	0.961	Low perception
Increased Insecurity	88 (33.3)	110 (41.7)	45 (17.0)	21 (8.0)	3.00	0.908	High perception

Table 4.4.4 shows the effects that herdsmen and farmers crises pose to the farm security settlements in F.C.T, Abuja. The respondents indicated that destruction of farmlands and crops scored a mean of ($\bar{x} = 3.02$), loss of livestock had a mean of ($\bar{x} = 3.03$), displacement of people recorded a mean of ($\bar{x} = 3.00$), human rights violations scored a mean of ($\bar{x} = 2.93$) and increased insecurity scored a mean of ($\bar{x} = 3.00$).

From the above table, 34.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that destruction of farmlands and crops serve as the major impact that Herdsmen and farmers pose to farm settlement security in Abuja. 33.3 % of the respondents strongly agreed that loss of livestock, displacement of people, human rights violations, and increased Insecurity will go a long way.

Data analysis (Hypothesis test)

H₀₁: No significant relationship exists between Herdsmen and farmers' crisis and farm security settlements in F.C.T, Abuja.

Table 4.3.5: Goodness of Fit Test (chi-square)

Options	Of	Ef	Of - Ef	(Of - Ef) ²	(Of-Ef) ² /Ef
SA	92	66	26	676	10.24
A	100	66	34	1156	17.51
D	57	66	-9	81	1.23
SD	15	66	-51	2601	39.40
Total	264	264			68.38

Source: Extract from Contingency Table

Degree of freedom = Number of response (n) – one $4 - 1 = 3$

At 0.05 significant level and at a calculated degree of freedom, the critical table value is 7.81

Findings

The calculated $X^2 = 68.38$ is greater than the table value of X^2 at 0.05 significant level which is 7.81.

Decision

Since the X^2 calculated value is greater than the critical table value (that 68.38 is greater than 7.81), the Null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis which states that A significant relationship exists between Herdsmen and farmers crisis and farm security settlements in F.C.T, Abuja.

There is a significant difference between herdsmen and farmers crisis and farm security settlements in F.C.T, Abuja. There is no significant relationship between the causes and farmers-herdsmen conflict in secondary schools in FCT, Abuja.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between the causes and farmers-herdsmen conflict in FCT, Abuja.

Table 4.3.6: Goodness of Fit Test (chi-square)

Options	Of	Ef	Of - Ef	(Of - Ef) ²	(Of-Ef) ² /Ef
SA	88	66	22	484	7.33
A	90	66	24	576	8.72
D	64	66	-2	4	0.06
SD	22	66	-44	1936	29.33
Total	264	264			45.44

Source: Extract from Contingency Table

Degree of freedom = Number of response (n) – one $4 - 1 = 3$

At 0.05 significant level and at a calculated degree of freedom, the critical table value is 7.81

Findings

The calculated $X^2 = 45.44$ is greater than the table value of X^2 at 0.05 significant level which is 7.81.

Decision

Since the X^2 calculated value is greater than the critical table value (that is 45.44 is greater than 7.81), the Null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis which states that There is a significant relationship between the causes and farmers-herdsmen conflict in FCT, Abuja. is accepted.

Discussion of Major Findings

The study found the causes of herdsmen and farmers conflict in F.C.T, Abuja include land scarcity and competition, resource competition, poor government and policy, economic interest, as well as cultural and ethnic difference. The study found that the effect of famers-herdsmen conflicts on food security in Abuja include food shortages and scarcity, price increases and inflation, disruption of food supply chains, and economic. The study found that the strategies deployed by stakeholders to mitigate the impact of Herdsmen and farmers conflict in F.C.T, Abuja include through establishment of grazing reserves, security measures, policy interventions. The study found that the effects that Herdsmen and farmers crises pose to the farm security settlements in F.C.T, Abuja. include destruction of farmlands and crops, loss of livestock, displacement of People, and increased Insecurity.

From the study, land scarcity and competition, resource competition, poor government and policy, economic interest, as well as cultural and ethnic difference are the causes of herdsmen and farmer's conflict. This discovery has the support of Akinibi and Akinola (2019) define conflict as a situation of disagreement, fighting or even outright war. North (2018) observes that conflict occur when two or more persons (or groups) seek to possess the same objects, occupy the same space or the same exclusive position, play incompatible roles, maintain incompatible goals, or undertake mutually incompatible means for achieving their purposes.

In his own submission, Bujra (2012) in looking at the various forms of conflict in Africa describes conflict "to mean a violent and armed confrontation and struggle between groups, between the state and one or more groups, and between two or more

states. In such confrontation and struggle some of those involved are injured and killed.

Onsarigo (2017) defined conflict as a condition when one party feels that the other party has frustrated or is about to frustrate some concern of that one party. It therefore implies that conflicts exist whenever an action by one person or group of persons prevents, obstructs and interferes with the desires of a particular individual or a group of people. Agu (2005) attests to Onsarigo's (2017) viewpoint that, conflict manifests when someone has a chance to achieve his or her purpose at the expense of someone else. Onsarigo further states that conflict is a relationship which exists between two or more parties who believe that they have incompatible goals, interests, perceptions and preferences. Hence, there is no way; two or more unique persons can be alike in all aspects of life. Conflict therefore remains a natural and constant feature of every social organization.

Conflict between grazers and cultivators in Nigeria, especially in the Benue Valley; usually result to loss of lives and properties of schools (Tenuche & Ifatimehim, 2019). More so, insecurity in many Northern states (a consequence of the grazers/cultivators' conflict in the North east and of less-well-reported rural banditry and cattle rustling in the North-west and North-Central zones) also prompts increasing numbers of herdsmen to migrate south. The growth of human settlements, expansion of public infrastructure and acquisition of land by large-scale farmers and other private commercial interests, have deprived herders of grazing reserves designated by the post-independence government of the former Northern region (now split into nineteen states). This is capable of causing conflict among grazers and cultivators which may affect effective management of schools.

Secondly, it was discovered from the study that the resultant effect of herdsmen had led to tremendous increase in food shortages and scarcity, price increases and inflation, disruption of food supply chains, and economic.

Thirdly, through establishment of grazing reserves, security measures, policy interventions all are the strategies deployed by stakeholders to mitigate the impact of herdsmen and farmers' conflict. This is in line with the FCT administration has established

grazing reserves to provide a designated area for herdsmen to graze their cattle, reducing the encroachment on farmlands (FCTA, 2019). To mitigate the impact of this conflict, various stakeholders have deployed different strategies, including:

Stakeholders have engaged in dialogue and mediation efforts to resolve the conflict peacefully. For example, the FCT Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has organized meetings between Fulani herdsmen and farmers to address their grievances and find mutually beneficial solutions (FMARD, 2018). The FCT Administration has established grazing reserves to provide a designated area for Fulani herdsmen to graze their cattle, reducing the encroachment on farmlands (FCTA, 2019).

Agricultural extension agents have been deployed to provide farmers with training and support on best practices, improving agricultural productivity and reducing the risk of conflict (Adebayo, 2017). Stakeholders have initiated livestock breeding programs to improve the quality and quantity of livestock, reducing the need for Fulani herdsmen to migrate to other areas in search of grazing land (Idris, 2019).

Community-based initiatives have been established to promote peaceful coexistence between Fulani herdsmen and farmers, including the formation of community associations and peace committees (Ocholi, 2019).

Policy interventions have been made to address the root causes of the conflict, including the development of policies on land use, agriculture, and livestock production (Akeju, 2018).

Lastly, it was found out from the study that the effects that Herdsmen and farmers crises pose to the farm security settlements in F.C.T, Abuja. include destruction of farmlands and crops, loss of livestock, displacement of People, and increased Insecurity.

Summary

This study assessed the effects of Herdsmen and farmers' crisis on food security in F.C.T Abuja. The study had four research objectives which were translated into research questions and research hypotheses accordingly. Descriptive survey design was used for the study. The study was carried out in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and the population for the study comprised of seven hundred and seventy-seven (777) victims of the crisis from

concern area in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Two hundred and sixty-four (264) victims of the crisis in FCT were sampled through random sampling procedure. A researcher-developed a twenty (20) self-structured questionnaire used for data collection. The questionnaire will be titled "Herdsmen and farmers' crisis on food security (FFFS)". The researcher adopted descriptive statistic to answer the research questions of the study and chi-square was used to answer research hypotheses. From the study, it was concluded that one of the major causes of farmers-herdsmen conflict is negative government policy. The study adopted percentage, mean and standard deviation as the method of data analysis. The findings of the study were made based on the results of the analysis. The discussion of findings was done based on the following subheading: And it recommended among others that regular meetings of the both the leadership of farmers and herdsmen should be called and peace issues should be discussed.

Conclusion

from the study, the following conclusions were derived. These included;

- ✓ The major cause of conflict between farmers and herdsmen is the destruction of farm crops which leads to attacks of various degrees.
- ✓ There is gross shortage of food in the markets in FCT and its environs where conflicts between farmers and herdsmen exist.
- ✓ Part of the strategies put in place by the stakeholders is to purchase food from a far state since there is an acute shortage of food in FCT
- ✓ The effect pose as a result of the conflict is that, economy will be dried and people are hungry terribly.

Recommendations

From the study, the following recommendations were made;

1. Regular meetings of the both the leadership of farmers and herdsmen should be called and agreement should be reached to avoid destruction of crops by the herdsmen.
2. There should be strong agreement of peaceful co-existence between the farmers and the herdsmen in all the communities in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

3. School administrators should include herdsmen and farmers in the school PTA for unity and peace in all the communities.

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