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## A Review of Farmers/Herders Clashes in Nigerian Environment: Consequences and the Way Forward

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## **A Review of Farmers/Herders Clashes in Nigeria Environment: Consequences and the Way Forward**

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### **Abstract**

A peaceful environment is a necessity for meaningful growth and development in human society. This review was thus, carried out to examine both immediate and remote causes of Fulani herdsmen/local farmers' crises in Nigeria, its consequences and the probable way forward. The review which involved searching for both online and offline information on the theoretical basis for the crises and, also the interview of the stakeholders for hands-on information. The crises which was noted to have dated back to 1960s has resulted into loss of lives and property. Apart from this, many homes have been displaced and means of livelihood of many people have become paralyzed. The quest for fodders for animals and the implied encroachment into crop farms as a result of grazing practices have been the main cause of the crisis. the entire citizens have become polarized especially on the possibility of the continued existence of the country. The crises need to be checkmated by all stakeholders if meaningful development and growth will be achieved in the country and its continuity will be ensured. The review recommended good governance, institution of justice, equity and the rule of law as some of the ways to halt the lingered crises.

**Key Words:** Environment; Natural Resources; Herdsmen; Farmers; Grazing; Nigeria

### **I. Introduction**

One of the challenges undermining the tranquility in Nigeria and also, bedeviling the continuous coexistence of the country, often called "The Giant of Africa" today is the incessant clashes between crop farmers and the Fulani herders (Tenuche and Ifatimehin, 2009; International Crisis Group, 2017; Dunn, 2018; Ibrahim and Bala, 2018). This incidence, if not checkmated, may eventually culminate the decimation and eventual disintegration of the country. The clashes which initially started in the North eastern part of the country consisting of Taraba, Adamawa Plateau States extended to the middle belt of the country and now being experienced in the southern part including the south east, South West and the South-South zones of the country. This conflict has resulted into massive of loss of lives, loss of farmlands to

herdsmen marauders, maiming, and incarceration of farmers and other victims, cow rustling among others. Apart from these losses, many Nigerians have become psychologically infected with the unabated conflict and no longer interested in continuing with the Nigerian State, thus there is wide palpable clamoring for secession/self-determination across the country. The clash has posed serious threat to free movement in the country and has exacerbated great tension among all the six zones in the country Mustapha, 2005. This study investigated the remote and immediate causes of the clashes, its effect on the environment of the country and suggested remedies to the disgusting situation. The work explored relevant literatures and also employed observation of the current happenings associated with the Fulani/Farmers' conflict in the country.

### **Theoretical basis for access to natural resources**

One of such theories propounded to explain man's access to natural resources was the one offered by Ribot and Peluso(2003). Ribot and Peluso revealed that there are other mechanisms interplay to determine access to natural resources apart from legal rights. Such mechanisms, according to the duo include network, technology, capital identity and so on. It was further reiterated that the principle of access (which is often dependent on inherent powers in the person) enhances the ability to benefit from several resources including vegetation, land, water, human and many other environmental resources. The possessed power stimulates control and unhindered access to such resources. It was further stated that since people and institutions are spatially placed in relation to resources at various historical time in space, there is possibility for variation in the inherent powers of access to the resources. Two sets of mechanisms which explain access to natural resources were mentioned by Ribot and Peluso (2003). The first one is 'rights-based access' (including illegal access) which indicates access supported by law, custom and convention. Illegal access in this case could include grabbing and acquisition by battle or war, imposition and the likes. The second mechanism according to Ribot and Peluso is 'structural and relational access. These include access acquired by virtue of one's access to technology, capital, markets, knowledge, authority, social identity/affiliation and negotiation of other social relations.

The theory as propounded by Ribot and Peluso (2003) has been considered valuable as their framework are primarily the conceptual shift away from a prime focus on legal rights and their efforts to point out the varied and multiple mechanisms by which people gain access and underlying power relation shaping these. Despite the benefits of this theory, some of its weaknesses have been highlighted. Kosch (2008) revealed that 'rights' which was classified by Ribot and Peluso as a mechanism for access to resources are also structural. According to Kosch,

it is unclear what ‘relational about the structural’ mechanisms and not the ‘right-based’ mechanisms. It was further argued if access to technology is more relational and less structural than legal (or illegal) access. Thus, the concept ‘relational’ as used by Ribot and Peluso is confusing and needs further explanation for better understanding. The theory was further criticized on whether power is acquired through negotiations or by possession. Both Ribot and Peluso (2003)’s access and Sen (1981)’s entitlement theories were criticized for their inability to inform how individual’s access and entitlement to resources could enhance person’s capabilities and welfare.

However, despite all these arguments against the theory of access to properties and natural resources as propounded by Ribot and Peluso, the work has made valuable contributions to understanding different types of mechanisms that determine access to resources and how these mechanisms shape access (Kosch, 2008).

Moreover, clashes between herders and crop farmers as being experienced in some parts of Nigeria has been attributed to competitive demand for access to natural resources, especially land and water resources which are salient to the livelihood of both groups. In some instances, the two groups of people have been cohabiting over years without crisis. It thus implied that some other attributes have come to play in explaining the reasons for the clashes over the resources that was initially sufficient and sustainable for both. Investigation is required to look into the power of recent environmental vagaries in determining access to natural resources other than power of law, convention, technology, among others. Other factors to consider in this contemporary times include climate change, rise in population, terrorism and inter-tribal wars and so on.

## **II. Method and Materials for the study**

This review was carried out using secondary data. It involves searching for online and offline information on the subject matter by consulting the past and present studies related to Nigeria nationhood, her ecological endowments, various environmental attributes that have led to the crises between the crop farmers and the Fulani herders in the country. Desk studies and oral surveys were employed in the community stakeholders. Oral interviews were conducted among randomly selected stakeholders, especially the crop farmers and the herdsman for additional information obtained from prints. Various academic publications on the subject were obtained to assess both immediate and the remote causes of the crises and the consequences of the crises and among others The review then highlighted various steps that could be taken to subdue the crises which has led to deaths, displacement and loss of valuable properties.

### **III. Nigeria Nationhood**

The entity known as Nigeria was formally established in 1914 through the amalgamation of both the northern and southern protectorates by Lord Lugard. Nigeria is located in West Africa, roughly between Latitude 4 ° N, 14° N, Longitudes 4 ° E, and 15 ° E. The country's most southerly point is near Brass in the Niger Delta, which is roughly north of the Equator. The country's northern boundary is approximately at 14°N. Her westerly boundary runs roughly along Longitudes 3°E while her easterly boundary runs from a point to the southwest of the estuary of the Cross River to northwards almost on Longitude 15°E, South of Lake Chad. The country is located almost in the centre of the great curve made in the west by the continent of Africa. This means that it is roughly equidistant from the extreme corners of Africa. Nigeria has a total land area of 923,768 square kilometres. This is four times the area of Ghana and about thirteen times the area of Sierra Leone. It is four times the area of the United Kingdom. It covers about one-seventh of the productive area of West Africa. The country shares its boundaries with the Republic of Benin to the west, the Republic of Niger to the north, the Republic of Chad to the northeast and the Republic of Cameroon to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. The general myth about the composition of Nigeria, according to Mustapha (2005), is that it comprises of about 250 tribal groups but it is largely dominated by Yorubas in the southwestern part, Hausa/Fulani in the north and Igbos in the southeastern part of the country. Other ethnic groups in the country include Kanem-Borno, Nupe, Ibibio, Tiv, Itsekirim Ijaw, Jukun, Birom, Gwari, Bini, Urhobo, Efik, Ogoni, Andoni to mention but a few. In the same manner, just as the country is multi-ethnic, it is also characterized with multi-religions comprising Christianity, Islam and traditional religions. Though, the country is endowed with rich culture which could be channeled towards nation building, it is unfortunate that this has turned to bedevil the growth of the country due to ethnic strife and clashes since independence (Osaghae and Suberu, 2005; Udoh, 2015). The trend in the strife has degenerated to the contemporary clashes between the herders who are majorly of Fulani origin and the local crop farmers across the States of the Federation, the crisis that linger on unabated till date (Mbalisi, 2017; Yagboyaju and Akinola, 2019).

### **IV. Nigeria Ecological Zones and the geographical spread of cattle rearing**

Nigeria is majorly divided into two belts namely tree forest and grassland ecological zones. Each of the zones is divided into belts depending on the characteristics of plants and the climatic features (Figure 1). There are different ecological zones in Nigeria namely equatorial forest, tropical

rainforest, guinea savannah, Sudan savannah and Sahel savannah. The tree forest is dominantly found in the southern part of the country while the grassland predominates the northern part. Equatorial forest zone comprises of the thin coastal fringes within the parallel of  $4^{\circ}$  from the equator. Next to it is the tropical rainforest while the Guinea, Sudan and Sahel savannah follow in that order from the southern part of the country. In term of animal rearing, the northern part with its large expanse of grassland resource accommodates the activity partly due to the availability of grasses which are the principal feeds for the cattle and the absence of trypanosomiasis which causes sleeping sickness in the animals (Federal Government of Nigeria (2019). However, the activity of cattle rearing is becoming more prominent in the forest zones of the southern part in our contemporary times. This scenario could be attributed to the development of vaccines which protect the cattle from being infected by tsetse flies that cause sleeping sickness in cattle. Other reasons include terrorism attack in the northern zone of the country and many other reasons that will be discussed in the course of the review.

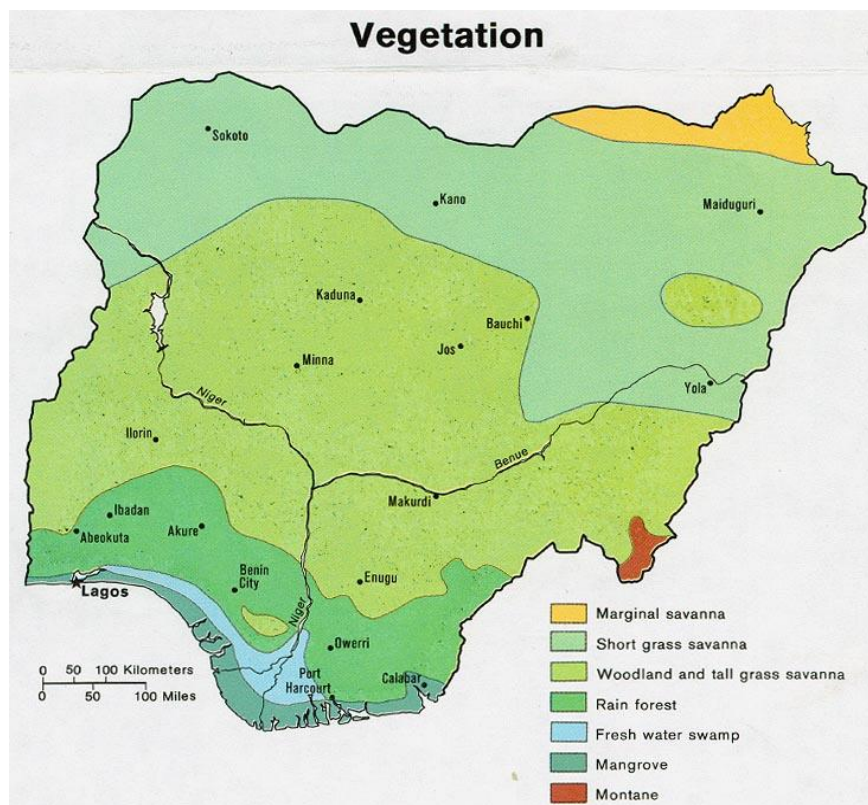


Figure 1: Map of Nigeria showing ecological Zones (Source: Google map, 2022)

Blench (1999) attributed the spread of cattle rearing business to five basic factors namely prevalence of disease, animal traction, marketing systems, ecology and the availability of animal

fodders/feeds and cultural preference including religion. According to Blench, prevalence of trypanosomiasis disease, especially in the southern humid regions of the country impeded the spread of cattle to extreme southern part of the country. However, this has been negated with the advancement in technology in the area of modern vaccination which makes the animals more receptive to the disease without any effect in the region. Lawal Adebawale (2021) also revealed that the production of other hardy breeds of cattle has also assisted the spread of cattle rearing in the southern region. The introduction of breeds that are more resistant to various animal-related infections and diseases and possibly milk-rich breeds in the southern part of Nigeria has made the cattle ranching unrestrictive (Ayandele, 2020). The changing quality and composition of forested zone which has engender the manifestation of savanna in the zone has also encouraged the increased animal rearing in the zone. The choice of cattle for traction purposes such as the use of cattle for ploughing and carting is no longer a strong factor to restrict cattle to where it is used for these purposes as many others have taken interest in the business of cattle rearing because its potential revenue source. Thirdly, the role of ecology and feed availability has been played down with the advent of modern feeds for cattle which are currently found across the country (Iwuhoa, 2020). Thus cattle husbandry can be profitably carried out anywhere in the country regardless of the availability of fodders or not, the keeping of cattle transcends beyond any particular ecological zone in modern times. In fact, cattle ranching is being clamored for and encourage in place of open grazing, which has been described as being detrimental to the harmony of Nigeria as a result of various evils arising from it. Cultural preferences for cattle keeping and especially religion exerts negligible effect on the distribution of cattle rearing in this contemporary times. Even if cattle business is still preferred and affiliated to any particular religion, this scenario has limited impact on the distribution of cattle rearing in Nigeria, as many other areas where cattle business was initially not considered are now taken up the business speedily.

#### **V. Environmental Dynamics and Farmers-Fulani Herders Clashes**

Environment does not remain static over time and space. Several factors are at play to influence the status of environment and its composition. For instance, man's action at any point in time contributes to the quality of that environment, especially and most importantly, through his agricultural, practices (such as crop and animal farming), industrial, mining, urbanization, and other developmental endeavours. All these dynamics have consequential effects on the natural

ecosystem such as desertification, poor agricultural techniques and so on are reviewed in the section here.

**i. Desertification and desert encroachment**

One of the environmental challenges in Nigeria is the problem of desertification and desert encroachment. The northern part of Nigeria has been noted for extensive cattle ranching and now being marked for its vulnerability to desertification. This challenge has led to the southward movement of the herders who are mostly of Fulani tribe (Bashir and Abdulahi, 2021). However, farmers in the southern part of Nigeria are well noted for crop farming. Some of the crops produced include cassava, maize, guinea corn, yam, Cocoyam, millet among others. Tree crops being raised include cocoa, rubber, Plantain, Oil Palm and so on. Cases of Fulani herders invading the crop farmers' land have been reported and this has not augur well for the relationships between the two sets of people. The desertification of the northern lands will not be at the interest of the herders which feed their animals from the open fields rich in fodder of varieties.

**ii. Unwholesome agricultural policies**

The country has been bedeviled with non-visionary and incompetence on the part of the various government in Nigeria since its inception (Bamaiyi, 2013). Various agricultural policies of the government under various regimes has encouraged misappropriation and embezzlement of the public fund which could have been channel to various developmental projects. Livestock keeping subsector has been one of the areas that has not enjoyed goodies from various agricultural policies. The subsector has suffered from poor attention of the government, just as it happens in other agricultural subsectors. Nigeria, noted to be one of the richest African nations, has failed to encouraged livestock development by encouraging closed grazing. Majekodunmi et al., (2014) and Ducrotoy et al (2016) discovered that the data generated from their studies from Katcha Grazing Reserve in Nigeria were not different from what had been generated over the past forty years and so found that productivity and management practices have remained relatively static, implying that these pastoralists have not benefited from the activities of other stakeholders, including the government. If attention had been given and livestock farming had been rightly funded while formal education had been promoted among all Nigerians, the country should not be groaning on herder/farmers clashes. Livestock keeping is a sector that should be generating substantial revenue to the government if it has taken care of it as it should be (Phillip et al., 2009). It has been noted that Nigeria is one of the countries that is so backward in agricultural



development, the challenge partly attributed to leadership that are self-centered and not visionary, Various policies of the government have not considered comparative advantage of various regions and areas in the country. It is expected that if the northern part of the country had been developed for its livestock keeping and the southern part had been developed for its tree crop farming, the crises between the herders and farmers would not have been (See also Nwoko, 1981; Phillip et al., 2009; Jabbar et al, 2002).

### **iii. Climate Change**

For the past few decades now, the entire globe has been facing the challenge of climate change. The mitigation of this challenge is still being sought for globally. Odoh and Chigozie (2012) had revealed that climate change has aggravated the incidence of conflicts between herders and farmers in Nigeria and so, affirmed that since climate change has come to stay, therefore, stakeholders should put in place mitigation and adaptation programs for sustainable agriculture. One of the effects of climate change is global warming which means that there is an increase in the global temperature as a result of greenhouse gases emission into the space. The impact of climate change had been unpredictable rainfall. While some areas witness too much of rainfall, some are experiencing inadequate rainfall. The northern part of Nigeria where animal ranching is domicile has been one of the areas in Nigeria which is suffering from inadequate rainfall. The rainfall in the extreme north may not last more than two to three months. According to Aremu and Abraham (2020), this experience has aggravated the continuous southward movement of the herders where rainfall seems stable for the growth of grasses and herbs which their animals can feed from. Adeniran (2020), attributing incessant clashes between farmers and herders solely to climate change, remarked that the changing climate in the Guinea and Sahel Savannah had prompted the southward movement of Fulani herders in search of fodders for their cattle. This scenario, according to Olaniyan and Uzodike (2015), has not received the blessings of their various host communities in view of the perception of land grabbing attempt, farmland invasion.

### **iv. Population Pressure**

Another reason for the for continuous intrusion of the herders to the southern part of the country could be attributed to the nature's response to redistribute the continuous increase in the population especially in the northern part of the country (Phillip et al., 2009). The disparities in the population growth rate of both the southern and northern regions of the country has contributed (International Crisis Group, 2017; Nwakanma and Boroh, 2019). While the population of the northern parts keep

increasing at alarming rate, that of the southern part is relatively and steadily growing, the scenario that to have contributed to the southward movement of the herders who are products of the northern environment.

**v. Global Pursuit of food security that prompted commercial agriculture**

In view of the global campaign on the need to produce more food to feed the teeming population, especially in the developing nations could have aggravated the continuous searching for grasses to feed the animals coupled with the expansion of farmlands to enhance increasing food production within the available and finite land resources (Matemilola and Elegbede; 2017; Friant et al.,2019; Kumeh et al, 2020). Many forest reserves have been converted to either farmlands or grazing lands. Thus, the ensuing crises between the two sets of people. The problem of land degradation is also associated to this challenge. It has been found that many farmlands have been abandoned as a result of loss of fertility and the consequential poor yields while some other grazing land have also been abandoned because of soil compaction which does not support adequate grass growth. Thus, in the course of scouting for land resources by either farmers or herders, crises ensued.

**vi. Modern drugs and technological advancement**

One of the inherent problems that often forbid the rearing of cattle in the southern part of Nigeria was the prevalence of trypanosomiasis which often causes sleeping sickness in the animals. However, with the related research development of drugs and vaccines to prevent animals from being infected and if infected, to get cured, herders have then discovered that they can move to anywhere in the country without the fear of any infectious disease/s that could affect their herds (Thornton, 2010; Bamaiyi, 2013). Such development may be new to the crop farmers who have been carrying out their farming without any fear of herders' invasion on their farms.

**VI. Causes of the uprising between Farmers and Herders**

Though, the remote causes of the crises between herders and farmers in Nigeria have been discussed above, it is important to note that such crises have not been so destructive and damaging to both lives and property as experienced in the last six years. Before this period, Fulani herders and the farmers have been living together harmoniously without any crisis, even, farmers do purchase lambs and keep with the Fulanis based on terms and conditions agreeable to both parties. The immediate causes of these crises are discussed here below.

**i. Purported fulanisation/Islamisation agenda**

The term *Fulanisation* was coined to denote an attempt of the Fulani tribe who are dominantly found in the northern part of the country to dominate every part of the country through land grabbing from the original occupant through animal ranching. On the other hand, the term *Islamisation* also conotes an attempt to force the religion of Islam (which is the major religion of the Fulanis) on every part of Nigeria through their dominance of every part of the country through herding. One of the immediate causes of the prevailing crises between the farmers and herders is the southerners' fear of being Islamized or dominated by the Fulanis who are herders from the northern part of the country (International Crisis Group (ICG), 2017). The country has a clear demarcation with the north dominated by Muslims while the southern part is dominated by Christians. In view of this distribution in the line of religion, none of the section of the country is ready to be subjugated in the country. The selection of leadership has been almost in the religious line. With the attempt to encourage the Muslim dominating Fulani cattle ranchers to move southward for whatever reason stands to be resisted by the southerners.

**ii. Bad governance**

Bad governance has contributed immensely to the lingering crises between farmers and herders in Nigeria. There is no doubt that the herdsmen who are mostly Fulani have been carrying out their god-given business, even in the southern part of Nigeria, living together with the crop farmers without any crisis. The history even had it that crop farmers do purchase and keep cattle with the Fulani herders based on certain terms and conditions agreeable to both sides. The crisis between farmers are traceable to the leadership styles of successive administrations in the country (International Crisis Group, 2017). Several crises between these two group of people which could have been settled amicably were fueled by the attitude of the government for being one-sided, perceived to be favouring one group or the other (ICG, 2017; Adeniran, 2020; Popoola et al., 2020). Many utterances of those in power furthered the crises leading to wanton destruction of life and property in various communities.

**iii. Land grabbing attempt from the original occupants**

One of the peculiarity of man is the sensitivity to his environment and the need to protect it. The southward movement of the Fulani herders was perceived by the southerners as an attempt to hijack and grab their land heritage from them which various tribes in the southern part will be ready to resist (Richard, 2020; Kugbega and Aboagye, 2021). Though, the constitution of Nigeria permits every citizen to settle and leave anywhere in the country, this is practicable as long as the

new settler is ready to comply with the rules and norms in their host community, otherwise, he is chased out. The similar condition for settling in any community in the south also exists in the north. For instance, whoever that wishes to engage in piggery in the north may not be readily permitted in the Muslim-dominated community.

**iv. Insurgency in the Northern part of Nigeria**

Insurgency in some parts of the country in the north created unusual sensitivity of the southerners towards the security and protection of their live and property. Thus, average southerner resist hosting any stranger in their community, especially, when such a stranger is from the northern part of the country. This sensitivity is actually should be natural, the acts of terrorism that persists over years has added more to it to ensure that bad elements do not infiltrate into their community. However, such sensitivity may not be in the interest of those strangers who have probably ran away from the crisis-ridden region to which is relatively calm, hence the crisis between such strangers who are mostly Fulani herders and the original land owners who are crop farmers of different tribes (ICG, 2018; Mohammed and Baba, 2018).

**v. Influence of Social Media**

Modern method of communication also has its share in the immediate causes of farmers/herders imbroglio. In this contemporary times, the means of communication have become so diverse, to the extent that to differentiate between the fake and genuine information becomes a challenge in the country (Abubarka and Nasidi, 2019). Circulation of uncensored information among the people contributed to the continued fights between the two groups of people by fielding wrong and destructive information to the either of the side. This eventually aggravated the unfriendly perception of each group against each other.

**vi. Differential Level of Education and Exposure**

The seemingly wide gap in the level of education and exposure between the farmers in the south and the Fulani herders who are always with their herds in the bush also has its stake in the persistent crises between the two groups. Though, various efforts have been made by successive government to bridge the gap in the level of education between the northerners, especially the nomadic Fulani and their crop farmer counterparts in the south, this is yet to yield an appreciable impact. Efforts to modernize livestock keeping by all stakeholders, especially through ranching system, can only be actualized when the parties concerned are receptive to western education Akinbi and Akinbi, 2018).

## **VII. Consequences of the clashes**

Several landmarks of the crises between farmers and the herders have been documented

### **i. Loss of lives and properties:**

Incessant clashes between the farmers and the Fulani herders have led to wanton destruction of lives and property. Table 1 shows the statistics of deaths in series of clashes in different six (6) States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria affected by the clashes between 2005 and 2021.

**Table 1: Statistics of Deaths in Series of Clashes in six States of the Federation (2005-2021)**

<b>S/No</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>No of Attacks</b>	<b>No of Deaths Recorded</b>
1.	Benue	303	2,539
2.	Plateau	279	2,138
3.	Kaduna	160	1,188
4.	Taraba	755	111
5.	Nasarawa	93	521
6.	Ondo*	NA	1,300

Source: Vanguard Newspaper, August 30, 2021; \*Premium Times, March 25, 2021

Another report indicated that between 2001 and 2018, about 60,000 deaths were recorded in multiple clashes between farmers and the Fulani herders while thousands of people were displaced as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Number of People displaced across four States between 2001 and 2018**

<b>State</b>	<b>Benue</b>	<b>Plateau</b>	<b>Nasarawa</b>	<b>Taraba</b>
No Displaced	176,000	100,000	100,000	19,000

Source: Premium Times, March 25, 2021

### **ii. Promotion of hatred and animosity against each other**

The ugly situation has brought about untold hatred, especially towards the Fulani tribe, which many other tribes see as the main cause of the clashes.

### **iii. Food insecurity in the country and the consequential high food prices**

One of the consequences of the prevailing crisis between the Fulani herders and the farmers is the aggravation of food insecurity. Within the period of 2015 and today, average Nigerian can hardly afford three meals in a day as a result of high cost of food items partly caused by the destruction of crops on farms, inability of the farmers to go to farm again for being lynched by the so called herders. Apart from this, cattle rustling has become the order of the day in various crisis-

ridden communities in addition to the inability of the herders to freely graze their animals (Okoli and Okpaleke, 2014; Olaniyan and Yahaya, 2016). Thus, the crises have negatively affected both the farmers and the herders.

**iv. Co-existence of the people being jeopardized and Agitation for secession**

One of the consequences of the crises between the two groups of people is on the sustainable and the continuous co-existence of the country. Several agitations have sprung up in different regions of Nigeria and clamoring for self-determination as a result of the crises. Examples of such agitation include those in south-east dominated by the Igbos and southwestern part of Nigeria which is predominantly of Yoruba tribe (ICG, 2017; Ojebuyi and Lasisi, 2019; Mohammed et al., 2021). Many in different regions have been fighting for breakaway from Nigeria as a result of injustice, body language of the federal government favoring one Fulani tribe, failure of the government to bring culprits to book and many others.

**v. Terrorism and Banditry**

Though, terrorism and insurgency had started in the north east long time before the farmers/herders crises rose, the crises have furthered the act in the country to the extent that no part of the country seems safe for the citizenry. For instance, Iganna community in the northern part of Oyo State was raided by the herders, causing loss of lives and farmlands. Various communities in the south eastern part of the country have fallen victims of the act of terrorism. Bandits have also taken over many communities in Kaduna State. Cases of kidnapping for ransom payment, raping, killing of innocent children, male and female, old and young were the consequences of the crises (Ajibefun, 2018; Popoola et al., 2020)

**VIII. The Way Forward**

**i. Equity and Good governance**

In order to ensure that such crises as Fulani/Farmers will be brought to a halt, the principle of equity and good governance need to be embraced. The political class needs to be orientated in this matter as where favouritism and nepotism are suspected on the part of the government of the day, it ignites reactions from the ruled which may not be palatable for the peace of the country. Kwaghga (2018) had stated that lack of good governance contributed to the incessant deadly conflicts between the farmers and the Fulani herders

**ii. Modern cattle ranching instead of open grazing**

There had been clamour for the education of animal farmers on the art of animal ranching instead of open grazing which is no longer tenable and feasible in the modern day. For instance, with the increase in population, urbanization processes, extensive crop farming to achieve food security, open grazing is not likely to be practicable in Nigeria. Animal ranching needs to be embraced by the Fulani herdsmen in view of many benefits attached to the practice. For instance, ranching encourages good growth and development of the animals for meat and milk production a lot, and so the farmers can have good reward for their job (Kwaga and Smith (2020) and, Nwakanma and Borch (2019). Apart from this, ranching encourages the accessibility and stability of cow boys to western education and also facilitates good relationships among the original settlers who are mostly crop farmers and the Fulani herdsmen, thus enhancing harmony in the country.

**i. Promotion of justice and promulgation of executable and amendment of crisis-prone legislations**

Promotion of justice among the citizenry and appropriate institutions in the country will initiate loyalty, unity and the commitment to such lifestyles in the country. Relevant executable legislations to checkmate the activities of all citizens and cautions will go a long way to check incessant crisis between the duo. Allowing justice to prevail and the rule of law have been suggested as some of the ways of curtailing the crisis between the farmers and the herdsmen. Legislations that are obsolete and are no longer relevant or practicable in this contemporary times should be worked on and corrected. Nwosor et al. (2021) recommended among other measures, adherence to the tenets of justice in line with the rule of law. Similar observation were made by Onah and Olajide (2020)

**iii. Re-orientation of the citizens on their duties and obligations to the country**

In view of the antecedent crisis and enormous effect on many farmers and the Fulani herdsmen, many homes have been traumatized and so looking for ways of taken vengeance Mawoti and Adamu, 2021). This can be corrected through the re-orientation programme to enable peaceful resolution. Such families can be compensated and resettled where displaced. Mawoti and Adamu had proffered mass orientation among others as one of the sustainable solution to the crisis.

**iv. Government and Non-Governmental Agencies support**

Government and non-governmental agencies (NGOs) at local, national and international levels need to offer their assistance in various areas for the affected people. This could be done through enlightenment on why the citizens should embrace one another regardless of race, colour,

language, ethnic affiliation. Adetiba and Rahim (2012) and Amara and Kanayo (2013) had recommended national integration is desirable which could be achieved through, all-inclusive government, offering scholarship to young ones among the affected and provision of farm implements and chemicals at subsidized rates for both herdsmen and farmers can do a lot in checkmating the pervading crisis between the duo. Soft loans can be given to these people to enhance their commitment to their occupations rather thinking on embarking on troubles. The government at all levels can acquire land and given for ranching purpose at reduced charges. Kumenyi et al. (2014) also suggested revived nation building which can be initiated by the government at various levels. Also, NGOs should be encouraged to intervene as appropriate for sustainable nationhood.

### **IX. Conclusion and Recommendation**

Environment that is devoid of crisis and uproar is demanded for any meaningful growth and development. Thus, this review was carried out to investigate into the both immediate and remote causes of Fulani herdsmen and local farmers in Nigeria, its consequences and the probable way forward. The crisis which is dated back to 1960s has resulted into loss of lives and property. Apart from these, many families have been displaced and means of livelihood of many people have become paralyzed. The quest for fodders for animals and the implied encroachment into crop farms as a result of grazing practices have been the main cause of the crisis. the entire citizens have become polarized especially on the possibility of the continued existence of the country. The crisis needs to be checkmated by all stakeholders if meaningful development and growth will be achieved in the country and its continuity will be ensured. The review recommended good governance, institution of justice, equity and the rule of law as some of the ways to halt the lingered crises. Apart from these, the government at the centre needs to work on the polarized economy that has led to the accessibility of ordinary citizens to sophisticated ammunitions with which they fight each other while those behind this situation should be made to face the wrath of the law without any favouritism.

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