

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

An Overview of Assessing Factors Responsible for Conflict between Pastoral Herdsmen and Farmers in Zamfara State, Nigeria

Jibrin Ubale Yahaya

Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria

Abstract:

The issue of Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has become an activity of routine daily killings in many localities and in different communities some states like Benue, Nassarawa, Taraba, Kaduna and Zamfara state, Nigeria. However, the frequent conflict between nomadic pastoralist and farmers in Nigeria, have continued to create serious security challenge to Nigeria's development. This Paper seeks to: examine the factors of nomadic pastoralists and farmers causes of conflict in Zamfara States; and to examine the significant difference between the understanding of nomadic pastoralists and farmers on the courses of conflict. To achieve the objectives of this study, the study will adopt secondary source of data through various previous researcher findings, Committees reports and various interviews conducted on the subject matter. The factors identified as causes of the farmers-nomadic conflict include: Encroachment on farm land and crops causes conflict between nomadic pastoralists and farmers in Nigeria; Religious factors causes conflict between nomadic pastoralists and farmers in Zamfara; and Mutual distrust cause conflict between nomadic pastoralists and farmers in Zamfara. Others are: Struggle for water causes conflict between nomadic pastoralists and farmers in Nigeria; Cattle rustling causes conflict between nomadic pastoralists and farmers in Zamfara as a result revenge reprisal attacks conducted by Fulani to some vigilante group who are from Hausa Farmers communities. However, some unidentified criminals uses the existence of crisis between the group of farmers and herdsmen to launches attacks on innocent citizens and kills many peoples in Anka, Tsafe and Dansadau towns in Zamfara State. The study concludes that, from the pastoralist's perspective, in the first place providing effective security Network in Zamfara State, finding roots of reprisal revenge attacks by Fulani to vigilante groups identities who members from farming communities as well as addressing the problem of grazing routes will be important for the farmers, addressing the encroachment on farm land and crops by nomadic pastoralists and farmers in Nigeria these will promote security and stability in the entire North-West Zone of Nigeria, in particular and entire country in general.

Keywords: Nomadic pastoralist, farmers, conflict, grazing land, rustlers

1. Introduction

Nigeria as a country has a series of cases of conflict between herdsmen and farmers there is no thought Nigeria has number of group of pastoral peoples who are ideally Fulani by tribe who are either Kanembu, Kwoya, Manga, Fulbe (Fulani) and the Shuwa Arabs. The Fulbe are the largest owners of livestock accounting for about 90% of the nation's stock, contributing one third of the Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 3.2% of the national GDP (Nuru, 1984; Fabusoro & Oyegbami, 2009). The Nigerian cattle market generates only 6.8 billion USD of a potential 20 billion USD annually due to local strives and inability of government to fully recognize the industry (Okello et al., 2014).

Conflict between farmers and herdsmen in Zamfara has the reports of security threat from 2011 to date, the cattle rustlers has take away not fewer than 15,000 cattle, while living the owner to live in difficulties (Daniya, 2017)

Farmers and pastoralist 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 and political inequality (Bassett, 1988). Farmer-pastoralist 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 2014), where environmental factors and exploitation of scarce resources leads to conflict and violence. This may explain the dwindling grazing resources (land, pasture etc.) and poor management of existing grazing reserves as culpable. In addition, the population is dynamic and ever increasing compared to land that is relatively static. The population growth rate of Nigeria per year is 3.2% (National Population Commission, 2012). Therefore, more and more people will continue to compete over land. The pastoralists are also competing with large-scale agricultural schemes that narrow the grazing lands. The use of tractors, herbicides and fertilizers have revolutionized agriculture in the country leading to more and more grazing lands being farmed

extensively (Iro, 2010). As farmlands increase to the detriment of grazing lands, animals can easily veer into farmlands and destroy crops.

The issue of cattle rustling and armed banditry has caused a lot of hardship and create a state of fear among the resident of Zamfara criminals take the advantage of the poor nature of the terrain to rustled hundred of thousand of cattle and other valuable items because there is no security formation present to prevent badly attacks to the communities.

Majority of pastoralist in Nigeria are Fulani are Fulani by ethnicity. The Fulani are predominantly Muslim and are the largest pastoralist group in Africa. The paper has argued pastoralist and Farmers across the country has highest level of violence recorded in Nigeria. The conflict between farmers and pastoralist, is more predominant in Northern Nigeria in states like Zamfara and Kaduna where criminal group of rustlers are moving from one communities to another looking for money, kidder napping as well as taking away animals.

2. Conceptual Framework

2.1. Concept of Nomadic Pastoralists

There has not been a consensus over the definition of pastoralist. In most cases, governments and policy makers consider pastoralist as an ancient lifestyle where many NGOs and donors see it as a viable way of life suitable to modern conditions (Blench 2001) also notes that pastoralist is the use of extensive grazing in rangelands for livestock production|| which is widely practiced in the dry land areas of the world. In addition, Oxfam (2008) defines pastoralist as the finely-honed symbolic relationship between the local ecology, domesticated livestock and people in high variable conditions|| and represents a form that manages the natural resources and the ecology between pasture, water, livestock and people.

The World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralist labels pastoralist as a system of adaptation to environments that are hostile and enormously resilient during droughts. The Pastoralist Concern Association Ethiopia (2008) reminds us that pastoralist is more than simply a mode of livestock production|| but also a consumption strategy that supports around 200 million people in worldwide (WISP, 2006). However, the exact definition of the term pastoralist depends on the nature of the unique pastoral societies being studied.

Historically, pastoralist has different divisions. Some of the scholars divide into two types (Halake 2009), while others categorize into four categories (Blench, 2001). Khazanov separates into two groups: (1) pastoral nomadic proper (pure pastoralists), which is characterized by the absence of agriculture and (2) semi-nomadic pastoralist (mixed farming). By using the degree of their movement and on the basis of the flexibility and the opportunistic nature of the pastoralists, Roger divided from high nomadic through transhumant to agro-pastoralists. According to the UNDP, there are different forms of mobility which depend on the degree of direct environmental reliance. Societal movement could either be seasonal or regular that follow well-defined transhumant routes that have been used for centuries. Or mobility could be more near random based on following the erratic movement of rain clouds.

As the UNDP describes in their pastoral categorizations, movement is more than for ecological season (pasture and water), rather than other factors such as moving away from animal diseases, conflicts, and bad neighbors. (Elliot 1998) also believes that mobility is based on ecological factors including variation in terrain, rainfall, location of rivers, and variety of vegetation and salt resources.

2.2. Concept of Farmer

Corp farming is practiced by sedentary farmers who are defined as farmers lining in permanent settlement gaining their livelihood mainly from crop production, with domestic animals providing supplementary income (Hussain, 1998). Lowland dry farming system are thus crop-livestock production systems occupying around 10 per cent of the world's dry lands and supporting 10 times the number of people that lives under the pastoral production systems. In such environment, unreliable rainfall often creates acute shortage of food and unless livestock are few and integrated closely with crop production, overgrazing may occur and add to environmental degradation (UNRISD, 1997). However, it must be noted that sedentary cultivators are also "stock breeders" or "herders", and just as many stock breeder or "herders" are also, to some extent, "farmers". Thus, the link between "farming" and "herders" is a continues rather than a discrete one. Also while it may appear paradoxical, the emergence of pastoralist as a specialized economic activity was actually enhanced by the development of agriculture (Bonte & Galaty, 1991). Agriculture made it possible for the development of a regional system of complementary exchange between pastoralists' cultivators.

2.3. Concept of Conflict

A constant fact about conflict is that it is an ever present phenomenon in social relations. It is inevitable in any social gathering, organization and society. The certainty of conflict to occur in every social arena motivated its interpretation in various forms. However, the existing definitions follow a thought pattern that clearly describes conflict as: a state of incompatibility, behavior, and an opposition, an interaction of interdependent parties, a bad omen and positive or constructive outcome. As a state of incompatibility, conflict is described as a situation in which the concerns of two or more individuals operating within the unit appear to be incompatible (Darling & Fogliasso, 1999).

Incompatibility breeds conflict because it is a psychological state in which people cannot get along with one another in an organization. Hocker (2011), described conflict as a felt struggle between two or more independent individuals over perceived incompatible differences in beliefs, values, and goals, or differences in desires for esteem, control, and connectedness. Conflict occurs when people are nested by some sort of social cords. It does not occur in isolation, people must be relating or be depending on one another. Conflict can be defined in terms of good or bad outcome. When the outcome of a conflict scenario is positive, it is defined as a functional or constructive conflict. Conflicts that end up in negative outcomes are regarded as dysfunctional conflicts. Hoelscher & Robert (2002) describe conflict as the underlying power that stimulates innovation.

Wehrmann (2005), describe land conflict as a social fact in which at least two parties are involved, the roots of which are different interests over the property rights to land - the right to use the land, to manage the land, to generate an income from the land, to exclude others from the land, to transfer it and the right to compensation for it. A land conflict, therefore, can be understood as a misuse, restriction or dispute over property rights to land. The satisfaction of basic human needs and some other economic needs, minimizes conflict, but it will not go away so long as there are interpersonal relationships ranging from that of husband and wife to other associations involving persons. Conflicts need to be resolved for people to make head way. (Ugwu, et al), noted that conflict in terms of competition can bring about increased productivity. Conversely, conflicts can be destructive; and are more likely to be destructive when people come into them harboring past resentments rather than remaining conscious of each other's positive conducts. Conflict graduates in phases:

- Early conflict indicators
- Conflict resistance
- explosive/exhaustive conflict, and
- Terrorism a deadly spiral and highest level of violence.

2.4. Theoretical Framework

This is the theoretical review that is related to conflict between farmers and pastoralist over the cattle rustling and use of land and agricultural produce has become a threat to peace in most part of the country in recent times with very devastating consequences. Theoretical insight into this conflict can be situated within the frustration-aggression framework.

2.4.1. Frustration-Aggression Theory

John Dollard & Neal E. Miller (1939) theory of Frustration-Aggression theory is of great impotent in understanding conflict. The theory says that aggression is the result of blocking, or frustrating, a person's efforts to attain a goal. The hypothesis, otherwise known as the frustration-aggression-displacement theory, attempts to explain why people scapegoat. It attempts to give an explanation as to the cause of violence. The theory, says that frustration causes aggression, but when the source of the frustration cannot be challenged, the aggression gets displaced onto an innocent target.

The contemporary applications of this theory submits that "the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the existence of frustration and, contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression". In other words, the exhibition of aggressive behavior always follows from a frustration-evoking impulse. (Dollard et al. 1939, p. 7).

Dollard's original theory posits that aggression occurs when there is an external impeding interference to some goal-response by an individual, which generates an aggressive energy that is ultimately released through aggressive behavior that is directed either toward the frustrating agent or "displaced" in aggressive behavior towards non associated targets (Felon, 1992).

(Dougherty & Pfaltzgraff 1996, p. 269) further explain that frustration arises when a barrier is interposed between a person and certain goals they desire to achieve, leading to the mobilization of extra energy that flows over into the exhibition of generalized destructive or aggressive behavior. It has also played a central role, for example, in the interpretation of stressors associated with the environment and their aggression effects. According to (Slettebak 2012, p. 164), "environmental shocks generate insecurity, frustration, scarcity of important resources, and weakened enforcement of law and order, which are frequently suggested to increase the likelihood of outbreaks of armed violence" (see also Brancati,2007; Burke et al., 2009; Nel & Righarts, 2008).

Proponents of Frustration-Aggression theory postulate that violent behavior he herders and farmers stem from inability to fulfill human needs (Anifowose, 1982). Situation where feelings of frustration become common among people, when the populaces are getting less than they deserve triggers conflict. Lending credence to this theory, John Burton submits that , implied in conflict resolution is the preposition that aggressions and conflicts are the direct result of some institutions and social norms being incompatible with inherent human needs, thus providing solace for the nomadic pastoralist and farmers conflict in Nigeria under the Frustration-Aggression. Here, theory relate the tension that exists between the farmers and pastoralist Fulani that led to crises to achieve a certain goal or one is regarded and maltreated in the process of his reaction out of anger as one be oppressed the conflict emerge.

2.5. Causes of Conflict between Pastoralist Fulani and Farmers in Zamfara State

This paper also, identifies some of the causes of conflict between farmers and pastoralist in Zamfara State, through giving consideration of the following factors:

2.5.1. Land Ownership and Farm Encroachment by Fulani Herdsmen

Some of the researchers who have conducted research on the emerging conflict between the farmers and Fulani pastoralist has its origin for quite very long time as argued by Kirawa (2017) Many links the scenario to long term human conflict between Fulani herdsmen and farmers in Zamfara due to struggle of ownership of farms land and grazing areas, others see it as a direct effect of reaction against socio-political and economic marginalization of Fulani by their Hausa counterpart.

However, these issue of land ownership by Farmer in Zamfara State, while Fulani pastoralist are looking for land to feeds their animals is one of the factor the create conflict between the two groups Ingawa et.al (1999) was of the view that " the key under laying causes of farmers-herdsmen conflict in Nigeria are changing resource, access right, inadequacy of grazing resources and a decline in internal discipline and social cohesion" lack of grazing land for Fulani pastoralist is one of the factor that make them to tress pass the farm land of mostly Hausa communities in Zamfara which to violent attack by both two parties.

Abbas (2012) argued that the major source of tension between pastoralist and farmers is economic with land related issue accounting for the majority of conflict. The perceptions for land preservation from farmers and searching for plants and water to their animals by Fulani is the major genesis of conflict between two parties of Fulani and Farmers in Zamfara State.

2.5.2. Lack of Enough Security Personnel and Lack of Modern Equipment for the Security Agencies in Zamfara State

Despite the existence of conflict between Fulani Herdsmen and Farmers, Zamafara State is lacking the availability of security agents with working equipments that will help in preventing the continuous escalation of conflict between the two group as cited by former Commissioner of Police Akila Usman in his interview with NTA Reporters told them " Security agencies in Zamafara State especially police and army are finding it difficult to fight the armed bandits along Dansadu- Birnin Gwari Forest, because no functional access roads to reach the villages when report of attack by criminal reach police."(NTA , 2014)

Anas (2017) has argued , the allegation of bandits having more powerful weapons than the security agencies is also another dimension to the conflict between Farmers and Pastoralist Fulani in Zamfara.

So, here we can understand that the nature of weapons use by bandit in zamfara is more powerful than the ones in the hand of security agencies in Zamfara , is a serious gap that make the conflict to continues escalate because of having the power of running weapons that are stronger the one in hand of conventional securities.

Garba, (2017) has added his view by stating" the bandit met us in the mosque observing early Morning Prayer and the bandit opened a fire on anybody sighted. They shot at us using machine gun and even when police came to us they confessed that the weapons of bandit are more sophisticated that of police, so they have to work with caution." The paper observe that what make this conflict between Fulani and Farmers in Zamfara is the nature of sophisticated weapons uses bandit in the area make the issue looks more terrible to be addressed.

2.5.3. Nature of Forest

The forest where bandit operate in Zamfara is location the researcher consider as hard to reach area, the terrain is very difficult for somebody who does not be familiar with the place make any search. Gwary, (2013) has make argument that " the police in Zamfara are operating in a very difficult situation. When the bandits are conducting operations it is always difficult for the security agencies to arrives to the scene in good time because of the difficult nature of the terrain and sometimes even communication is difficult." The emerging issue of cattle rustling and armed banditry has caused a lot of hardship and create state of fear among the resident of Zamfara, criminal bandit in Zamfara take the advantage of poor nature of the terrain to rustled hundred of thousand of cattle and other valuable items because there is no security formation to prevent them from offering that badly attack.

2.5.4. Politics Behinds the Conflict

Many scholars and writers has discussed about the politics behind conflict between the Fulani pastoralist and Farmers in Zamfara with some political connotation which make the conflict none resolved for a very long time. According Anka (2017) argued that " the conflict of Farmers and Fulani was politically motivated by the current administration as it fails to take clear measures that would help to ensure sustainable peace since 2011". Anka has cited in his work on emerging issues of armed bandit and fails of peace deal in Zamfara, makes a strong argument in his relating some variable political factors with the conflict.

Danmaliki (2014) has cited that " peoples from opposition party, Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP) criticizes the state government for not being sincere in ending the conflict, the government of Zamfara under Abdul'azee Yari deliberately mastermind the incessant killings in various parts of Zamfara to take away the mind of citizens from demanding for services, these types of situation enable the Governor and his aides to siphon money and deny people the benefit of good governance"

The bandits form organized criminal networks, often relatively localized, but sometimes with wider influence and political connection in Zamfara State. (Participatory, Workshop Abuja, 2016.)

Civil Society Group has demonstrated conflict is connected to the government's insincerity in providing adequate social security and safety measures for both farmers and herders. There is no justification for government of Zamfara to be spending more monies in procuring arms and vehicles for security agencies to fight the unending crises. The government needs to realistically address the socio-economic and political needs of both Fulani and farmers to stop deceiving the Zamfara's. (Haidara, 2014)

Anka (2017) further cited that " there are others who described relationship between the bandit and some Governor's aides as a strong indication of the link between the state government and what is happening in the state, as the pictures of the bandits and some Governor's associates are seen going round the social media and there are reports circulating that, some aides of the Governor are used in reaching out to the bandit for discussions and negotiations".

While Danlami (2014) has a contrary view who opined that " the state government of Zamfara is battling harder to come up with strategies that would help in ending the conflict but those in the opposition used their influence and connection in Abuja to block all chances to the state to succeed so that they can be using the scenario as campaign weapons to win the heart of the peoples in the state especially as the general elections draws nearer."

However, the argument between those who have believe that the government has connection or interest in the conflict between Fulani pastoralist and Farmers and those who have opinion that government has no interest in the conflict . Despite this apparent arguments between those relating the conflict with government or not, the researcher has the view that its one of the major responsibility of Government to provide security of lives and property of the citizens , but if government fails on this responsibility it must be blame and accuse of what so ever connection.

2.5.5. Corruption in the Police sector and Traditional institution

Corruption in the police is a phenomena displayed of " jungle justice" from the side of security agencies where the guilty person will be set free for reason of money or material exchanges, that has provoked the other side of aggrieved parties to take laws in to their hand having lost confidence in the security agencies. Secondly, some traditional rulers who are not helping matters because sometimes traditional leaders support injustice in expectation of gaining material return from the conflicting parties.

2.5.6. Payback Reprisal attack of Pastorals Fulani to Hausa Vigilante Group Members in Zamfara

The reprisal attack was one of the emerging factor that make the escalation of conflict between Fulani and farmers where the scenario started at Chile Market in Dansadau where suspected Fulani were arrested and gruesomely murdered by the vigilante groups from Hausa native farmers those Fulani arrested and killed was alleged involve in cattle rustling in 2011, this is one of the key factor which has actually set a wrong signal to other organized vigilante groups in the neighboring emirate council who resorted to adopt similar measure to deal with suspected Fulani rustlers but this action led to these ugly situation of conflict between Fulani and farmer in different parts of the states in communities like, Maru, Tsafe, Zurmi, Birnin Magaji and some part of Anka where Fulani pastoralist become target to been killed or arrested as claimed involvement on cattle rustling.

It can be recall these conflicts between Fulani and Farmers in Zamfara was in 2011, when some suspected hoodlums attacked Guru killed twenty eight peoples including some vigilante group members who are believed to have participated in the murder of some suspected Fulani. The situations has reached an alarming stage in 2012, when an organized vigilante group kept mobilizing from one weekly community market to another in search of some suspected Fulani cattle rustlers and murder them in an open market and the worst part of all these circumstances was on July in 2012, where three suspected Cattle rustlers were manhandled and finally cremated to ashes at Kasuwar – Daji international Market Kaura-Namoda by vigilante group from Nassarawar Godal area of Birnin Magaji. However, in the history of bandit attack Kizara attack was the most deadly were the hoodlums numbering over hundred engaged and many community vigilant group members about fifty eight peoples including women and children was affected.

Looking, at the above happenings of attack of Vigilante group members and other Hausa community members who are resident farmers been attack by Fulani pastoralist as taken revenge by a slaughters of killing launched to them by various members of vigilante group in different communities of Zamfara State on weekly market days, this is one of the another strong factor that makes the conflict escalating up today.

2.6. Implications of the Conflict between Farmers and Fulani Pastoralist in Zamfara State

The Zamfara Conflict between Pastoralist Fulani and Farmers, has generated so many problems and challenges that affect not only Zamfara but to the entire North-West Zone in the area of escalation of insecurity, massive killings and damage of property worth Billions of Naira both from cattle of Fulani and other properties of Hausa Communities.

Tukur (2017) argued that, the forceful migration has caused the state shortage of cattle and meat, dairy as well as manure for farming activities. More than 40,000 cattle moved out of Zamfara to some alternative destination, it takes a voucher more than a week to transport cattle, sheep and goat from Taraba, Benue, Nasarawa, Jos or neighboring Niger Republic. So we should understand that these issues of conflict between the farmers and Fulani has led many Fulani to moved to other neighboring

state or saves their lives and the lives of their animals from brutal killings and maltreatment. The natures of this conflict make various families to shift from locations in Zamfara to a forceful migration as a result of misunderstanding between the groups. Another issue in communities that was affected by conflict is the cases of rape and slaughter of Children as argued by Badam (2017) "almost two-third of the communities attacked along the Dansadau forest by the armed bandit since 2014 recorded cases of rape." This conflict in Zamfara has demonstrated the level of violence against women and children which is an issue of breaches of fundamental Human Right that need to be observing internationally all over the world not in Nigeria alone.

The conflict was also be target as ethnic conflict that one group try to eliminate another through act of massive killings and taking away their property as cited by Anas (2017) Miyetti Allah Association of cattle Breeders of Nigeria, they described the crises as purely a war to eliminate Fulani people and deny them access to social forces provided to them by relevant laws of the land.

As argued by Tukur (2014) cited , " if Fulani men is deny access to grazing areas, watering places, social security and safety as well as subjected to merciless extortion they have no option than to react in such away he has animal would survive. The situation in Zamfara demoralizing on the site if Fulani, they are denied almost everything and we are portrayed as criminals who are instigated and lead killing of innocents people, it is very unfair."

Despite, this killings , in its effort to solve insecurity problem in Zamfara State, the President Muhamadu Buhari on 22nd Nov, 2017, has approves the establishment of battalion, given marching order to the military to crack down bandit in rural areas of Zamfara state, which open new pages of attacks in some communities in Shinkafi and Maradun local government. The spokesman of the President, Garba Shehu, has cited the presidential order was to enable the army carry out the new mandate of fishing out criminal elements that gave terrorist final touch. The order also requested for the Minister of Defence, Brig-Gen. Mansur Dan Ali (rtd) to station 8 Division of the military Army in Sokoto and the President approve the movement of 1 Brigade of Nigerian Army from Sokoto to Gusau. (Daily Trust, 2017)

However, after marching order of President Muhamadu Buhari couple with declaration by Abdul'aziz Yari the Government of Zamfara State, the attack has growing on serious increase affect various communities in state, these is showing us using of force cannot solve the problems of Zamfara state conflict as it was recently reported the attacks of bandit to farmers become a daily reports by journalist which it was captured by Daily Trust News paper on new bandit attack which kills 20 peoples in Kuru-Kuru and Jar kuka Village in Anka Local Government, the resident of the area told the reporters, that armed bandits had earlier attacked Kuru-Kuru village nearby when the residents of Jarkuka village mobilized to offer help to those under attack at Kuru-kuru. (Daily Trust, 2018)

So, the issue under contention here is that the bandit are always making serious mass killing of any group either from the community or security, the has change the colour from Fulani to farmers it become a conflict between criminal using the ethnic umbrella of Fulani and engage in killing communities in Zamfara State, because at various the group of Fulani has claim that those Fulani making all the killing are doing it on their own.

3. Recommendations

The researcher, has the following recommendation to address the issue of conflict from Pastoralist Fulani and Farmers in Zamfara State, to ensure the sustenance of peace and stability not to Zamfara state alone but to the entire North-West Zone because continue progression of conflict in Zamfara will easily affect the security and peaceful nature of neighboring states of Sokoto, Keffi, Kaduna and Katsina state.

3.1. Strengthening Security Structure in Zamfara State

The issue of security must be strengthen in terms of moving qualified security agents and provision of various sophisticated weapons to the security agents both this effort should engagements of both Federal and State Government, these effort should be truly implemented not only paying lip services with serious concern to the needs of the peoples.

3.2. Tracing the Root Causes of Reprisal Attacks by Fulani to Farmers

To end the conflict between the Pastoralist Fulani and Farmers in Zamfara, the root cause of attacks need to be further investigated to ensure the mutual understanding between the two faction groups of Fulani and farmers, because the application of force cannot be a single solution to the problem but of series of dialogue and reconciliation between the groups to be initiated by Traditional institutions who are community leadership structures with engagement of stake holders from state and federal government with serious commitment of ending the conflict for the benefit of peace sustenance in Zamfara State.

3.3. Review of Land Acts Provision in Zamfara

The Zamfara State government with collaboration of local councils, traditional leaders, associations from Fulani pastoralist and farmers groups to meet a level of understanding where the needs and rights of both two groups will be respected to ensure peace and stability among the groups in the state.

3.4. Provision of Access Infrastructures in Rural Areas

The nature of forest difficulties for not easily access to reach where the criminal hides and attacks innocent community members in Zamfara State, has raise the level of criminality engage by the bandit. Government at all levels needs to provide essential infrastructures in the rural areas and within the hard to reach forest location to ensure access to these areas.

3.5. Government at All Levels Should Not Play Politics with Bandit Attacks

Another important issues to consider is for all government at every level to show and display commitment to bringing lasting peace in the state and to bring anybody who ever is behind the attacks which is resulting to many killings and damage of property and force migration of various communities in Zamfara State.

4. Conclusion

In paper has established that the major sources or factors that make this conflict between the Fulani and Farmers escalate was as a result land encroachment of Fulani Pastoralist to farm lands that damage crops of Hausa communities, killing of some suspected Fulani rustlers by various vigilante group association in Zamfara led to reprisal revenge attacks by Fulani to Farmers communities as well as failure of security agencies to prevent the bandit from these criminal activities as result of lack of sophisticated weapons to fight counter the bandit who has a very powerful weapons and the forest is hard to reach area where the bandit hide. However, the paper suggest the provision of sophisticated weapons to security agents and additional relocation of securities to the area, designing a package of reconciliation, rehabilitation and amnesty to bandit to brings down arms and repent because using the military force will not solve the matter.

Lastly, government at every level should not play politics with security of lives of its peoples, because security is one of the basic responsibilities of any government in Nigeria.

5. References

- i. Abbas I.M (2012) No retreat no surrender: Conflict for survival between Fulani pastoralist and farmers in Northern Nigeria. *European Scientific Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 331 – 346.
- ii. Anas A. (2017) Emerging Issues in Zamfara Armed Banditry and Cattle Rustling, Collapse of the Peace Deal and Resurgence of Fresh Violence, *International Journal of Innovative Research and Development- ISSN 2278- (Nine)*
- iii. Blench, (2004). *Natural Resources Conflicts North-Central Nigeria. A hand book and case studies CCE St. Ives* pp. 04
- iv. Danmalami I. (2014) Zamfara State Commissioner of Information, 48, Interview conducted at the State Government House Gusau, Zamfara State, 13th January 2014.
- v. Danmaliki G. (2014) Former Commissioner of Information, Aged 47, Interview conducted at Badarawa Village, Zarmi Local Government Area of Zamfara State on 12th January 2014.
- vi. Garba D. (2017), Resident & Eye Witness, Aged 49, Interview conducted at his village in Sabon Birni Village, Anka Local Government Area, Zamfara State on 13th June 2017.
- vii. Gwari A.U (2013) Zamfara State Commissioner of Police, Aged 57, Interview conducted at Zamfara State Police Force Headquarters, Unguwar Gwaza, Gusau, Zamfara State on 13th January, 2017.
- viii. Haidar M. (2014) Bad Leadership and its impacts on Security situation in Zamfara, Press Release by Zamfara State Chapter of Northern Youths Assembly, 23rd August 2014.
- ix. Iro I. (201) Grazing Reserve Development: A panacea to the intractable strike between farmers and herders www.gamji.com accessed on 22nd November, 2014.
- x. Kirawa M. (2017), National President Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, aged 50, interview conducted at Fulbe Villa Hotel Gusau, 12th October 2017.
- xi. National Population Commission (2012), Nigeria over 167 million population, implications and challenges www.population.gov.ng accessed on 25th January, 2015.
- xii. Nuru S. (1984) Livestock Research in Nigeria in Von-Kaufman, R. Charter S. and Blench R. (Ed) *Livestock System in Nigeria's Sub humid Zone*, proceeding second ILCANIN ARRI Symposium in Kaduna, Nigeria on the 29th October and 2nd November, 1984.
- xiii. Okello and Smith J. (2014) Identify motivators for State Pastoralist dialogue, exploring the relationship between livestock pastoralism.