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An Appraisal of Livestock Sub-sector and its Contribution to the Economic Development of Northern Nigeria: A Perspective on Zamfara State

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Abstract:

This position paper conducted critical examination of the contribution of livestock sub-sector to the economic development of Northern Nigeria and Zamfara state in particular. It critically examines the impacts of the sub-sector to the sustainability of both the family units and entire macro-economic development of the pre-colonial and indeed colonial Northern Nigeria.

The paper has also examined the significance and strategic position of Zamfara state in the livestock development in Nigeria. It has examined also in critical terms, some of the critical issues affecting livestock development in the contemporary time and also an evaluation of policy failure in respect of livestock development. The paper affected mixed method of field interviews and literature review to enable the writer assess the strengths of the data used in this research.

Keywords: Livestock, economic development, northern Nigeria, Zamfara State

1. Introduction

One of the most attractive occupations that contribute greatly to the socio-economic development of Northern Nigeria is livestock activities. Not only in Nigeria but worldwide, livestock is one of the sub-sectors that are seen as the most effective in terms of human development. The availability of various categories of ruminant animals especially cattle, sheep, goats, chicken and fish in Nigeria and their contribution to human survival makes their significance to human society much unquantifiable. Mshelbwala (2013) argued, Livestock population estimate-2008 projection, 15.24 million cattle, 96.67 million goats, 51 million sheep, 6.87 million pigs and 140 million poultry. Livestock contributes 15-20% of the agricultural GDP and 5-6% of the Nigeria's total GDP.

The significance of the livestock sub-sector is not only limited to the Northern Nigeria but contributes proportionately to the economic sustainability of Nigeria as a nation. It is one of the strongest sub-sectors that have supported the agriculture in providing job opportunities to teeming unemployed youths in Nigeria as well as provide support to the development of the Nation's food security. As argued by Sansoucy (No date), Livestock production is a major component of agricultural economy of developing countries and goes well beyond direct food production. Sales of Livestock and their products provide direct cash income to farmers.

From pre-colonial period to date, the history of Nigeria's economic development cannot be completed in isolation of the contributions of livestock sub-sector. Every household man or woman took to livestock as a life time occupation. It is used in augmenting the revenue drive of the typical Nigerian peasant farmers especially after harvesting season. As argued by Sansoucy (No date), Livestock are the living bank for many farmers and have a critical role in the agricultural intensification process through provision of draught, power and manure for fertilizer and fuel.

Nigeria is one of the strategic countries in the sub-saharan Africa that enjoyed the dividends of livestock development in terms of creating job opportunities, reduction of poverty, food security as well as economic transformation. The country is located in West Africa and shares borders with Benin, Chad, Niger and Cameroun. Its land mass is put at 923,000 sq k. Its human population is put at 167 million as at (2011 estimates), Mshelbwala (2013). Availability of land, border strategic locations and favourable climatic conditions are among the numerous factors that helped in making livestock grazing one of the most profitable ventures among the teeming rural poor people in Nigeria.

Northern Nigeria among many other regions of the country remains critical to the development of the livestock sub-sector. It is critical because it provides one of the best economic and social locations that are much convenient for the typical Fulani herders to operate. Besides availability of the land and potentiality of the grazing areas, the region provides strong link between Nigeria and other countries of the sub-saharan Africa that are in to livestock development. The region shares border with neighboring Niger, Benin, Cameroun and Chad and the strategic influence of these countries helped

greatly in making Northern Nigeria highly competitive in terms of livestock development. The region allows an easy link between the Fulani herders in the North and their counterparts across the Lake Chad basin. The strategic location of the Northern Nigeria which was made much suitable through the demarcation of acceptable cattle routes and grazing reserves since pre-colonial time makes it attractive for Fulani to stay more comfortable in the North than in the Southern parts of the country. Kiruwa. (2017).

The social integration of the Fulani herders in to the cultural and religious settings of the Northern Nigerian people had helped significantly in projecting a regional image of making livestock development a northern phenomenon. As argued by Ardo (2017) farming and livestock grazing are inter-twined occupations that, speaks volume of the economic relevance of the Northern Nigeria amidst other regions. Until recently, not many tribes outside Northern Nigeria can separate farming and livestock grazing because both of them are considered as occupations of the typical Hausa/Fulani persons.

Emerging developments in Nigeria especially urbanization, oil discovery, increase in population, climate change, hunger and industrialization had influenced some dramatic shift in terms of continuous recognition of the role of the livestock sub-sector in the development of the Northern Nigerian economy. This negative development has however, resulted to increasing tension and agony not only between Fulani herders and typical Hausa farmers but even Nigerian state itself, Fulani herders are seen as threat to national security and safety. The passing of anti-open grazing law by Benue and Enugu State governments and increased agitation for other states in the North to enact same laws has helped in creating a new picture for the future of livestock development in Northern Nigeria Kiruwa (2017).

Added to this negative development is the absence of strong laws that would help strengthen the contribution of the sub-sector to the economic development of the nation. Most of the policies enacted did not favour livestock development and even the Fulani herders continue to face exclusion and political marginalization. Fulani are considered as second hand citizens whose treatment is characterized by injustice, inhuman maltreatment and political jeopardy. As argued by Mande (2017), a typical Fulani man in Nigeria is suffering from all forms of political marginalization and it seems Nigerians does not recognize our contribution to the nation's economy. Our lives have been brutalized and we are subjected to forceful migration from one place to another due to constant harassment and intimidation by our Hausa relatives.

The objective of this paper is to among other things: make an appraisal of the contribution of the livestock sub-sector to the economic development of Nigeria as well as identified some of the gaps that helped in changing the dynamic contribution of the sub-sector especially in the development of the contemporary Nigeria. This paper adopt a mixed research methodology of both field interviews and literature review and the purpose is to use the contemporary happenings in some sections of Northern Nigeria especially in Zamfara state to augment or disagreed with some established positions on livestock development in the existing literatures.

2. Livestock Development in Northern Nigeria: An Over-view

Livestock development in Nigeria is as old as agriculture. It is one of the most participating ventures that each and every family of a given household in Nigeria embarked often either in small or large quantity. It has contributed greatly not only in creating job opportunities and strengthening of food security but helped in supporting the nation's economic development. As argued by Saka (No date), as in many countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, Livestock account for as much as one third of Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) providing income, employment, food, farm energy, manure, fuel and transport.

Worldwide however, demands for livestock continue to be at increase due to the increase in population and varying degrees of human needs. World Bank (2009), assert that, demand for livestock worldwide is projected to be at increased due to the growing population projection UNDP (2008) report indicated that, Human population by 2050 is estimated to be 9.15 billion with a range of 7.96-1046 billion

Livestock sub-sector has been one of the strongest economic developments that have helped in sustaining the nation's economic stability. In the pre-colonial Northern Nigeria for instance, Livestock development served as a booster to the annual earnings of every household. From poultry to cow, sheep and goat production, majority of the households took to livestock as an alternative source of revenue used in settlement of family needs such as ceremonies, festivities and many other annual traditional needs of the people. Winrock (1992) argued, Livestock is also closely linked to the social and cultural lives of millions of poor farmers for whom animal ownership ensures varying degrees of sustainable farming and economic stability.

Nigeria remains one of the strategic countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa that makes livestock production a profitable venture to its people. The country has about 40 million hectares of available grazing land yet to be fully exploited, cattle, sheep and goats provides over 70% of the national meat supply and all the locally produced milk in Nigeria while the poultry sector still small at the time provided opportunities for rapid growth Saka (No date). The contribution of the Livestock sub-sector to the satisfaction of the nation's human needs could not be quantified. For instance, Saka (No date) argued, over one million head of cattle are slaughtered annually in Nigeria, but that 75% of them are fit for further fattening and could yield an extra 25,000 to 45,000 tonnes of meat per year. Nigeria as one of the developing countries in Africa benefited significantly from the contribution of the livestock sub-sector. It houses significant number of ruminant animals that provides both the food, protein and nutrient needs of its citizens.

Item	Period			Growth Rate (%)	
	1969/1971	1988/1999	2010	1970-1999	1990-2010
Milk	78.0	147.3	247.6	3.5	2.5
Meat	28.5	64.8	143.0	4.6	3.8
Large ruminants	12.1	18.6	32.3	2.2	2.7
Small ruminants	3.0	4.9	9.5	2.8	3.1
Pigs	9.7	28.3	64.0	6.1	4.1
Poultry	3.7	12.9	36.9	7.0	5.1
Wheat	67	132	205	3.8	2.1
Rice	177	303	459	3.0	2.0

Table1: Trends of and Projection in Livestock Products, Wheat and Rice (Million Metric Tonnes) in Developing Countries

Source: FAO, 1999

Livestock sub-sector has impacted positively on multi-diversified sectors of the Nigeria's economy. Its impacts signify its relevance to the livelihood and sustainability of millions of Nigerians. You cannot talk of agriculture and its contribution to the nation's socio-economic and political development of Nigeria in isolation of the livestock sub-sector. In terms of food security for instance, livestock sub-sector played a complimentary roles with agriculture. Local farmers who constitutes significant portion of the Nigeria's farming population, relied on the local manure produced through livestock development to strengthen the potential needs of their farms. Many other farmers make extensive use of cattle for wet season farming while others used them in conveying farm products to both home and community markets. Kiruwa (2017) argued, for several centuries, Fulani herders have been involved in the extensive farms management especially in manure production. Large scale farmers engage Fulani herders in seasonal manure production for multiple numbers of hectares. Their engagement involves monetary and compensational methods such as food, clothing materials and even provision of shelter.

In terms of employment opportunities for instance, livestock development provide an enabling ground for thousands of people, men and women, young and adult as well as farmers and herders to getting involved in one form of job opportunity or the other. Livestock has helped empowered people to rear cattle, sheep, goats and even poultry for meat production, manure generation and even milk processing. The Chairman of Miyetti Allah Zamfara State Alh Tukur Jangebe once said in an interview that, over one million ruminant animals are being reared at home in Zamfara state alone while Fulani herders owned and manage close to two hundred and fifty thousand livestock including cattle, sheep and goats. This venture has been with the people of Zamfara for over three hundred years. Tukur (2017) argued that, management of these numbers of ruminant animals provides daily job opportunity to both the managers and animal food providers.

It is estimated that, between forty to fifty five thousand of locally and factory made offal is being used by livestock managers in Zamfara alone while food worth between eighty to one hundred thousand tons is being directly used for the development of these animals. Married women at home young and adults are fully utilizing the venture as a source of livelihood.

Livestock development has helped empowered thousands of people who took to meat selling and processing as life time business. Some families especially in the Northern parts of the country have become identical to this vocational skill and hundreds of families in the Northern parts of the country have become rich and highly influential through this business. Meat is required by every human being for survival. It is one of the basic requirements needed for human to survive. It helps provide energy and protein to human body. World Bank (2009), for instance argued that, meat production in the developing world triple between 1980 and 2002 from 45 to 134 million tons. In Nigeria close to one million ruminant animals majority of which are cattle are being slaughtered to meet the annual needs of the people in terms of meat consumption. This estimation does not include additional one million number of chicken estimated to be used by Nigerians every year Kiruwa (2017).

The development in the livestock sub-sector led to the emergence of traditional and modern abattoirs in almost every parts of the country. No community one would go in Nigeria without identifying a community abattoir used in slaughtering and management of meat for public consumption. These abattoirs played a host to dozens of people who took to animal slaughtering as vocational skills. In the Gusau modern abattoir for instance, between one hundred to two hundred and fifty cows are slaughtered every day. This is beside additional eighty to one hundred number of cow slaughtered across the remaining thirteen local government areas of the state. Lawali (2017). For ram's sheep and goats, it has been estimated that, between one hundred and fifty to four hundred are slaughtered both for sales and ceremonies like naming, wedding and qur'anic graduations.

Another estimate had it that, during the Id-el Kabir festivities, close to thirty three thousand cattle, sheep and goats are slaughtered for the performance of the Islamic rites. Tukur (2017). These development played host to numerous number of people who on daily basis take advantage of the vocation to securing legitimate money for use.

Poultry production has also help in adding much to food security. According to an estimate made by Musa (2017), not fewer than two thousand chickens are slaughtered in Zamfara on daily basis. These include the one used by the aged, hotels, restaurants and during ceremonies, workshop or conferences. Evidently however, it has been estimated that,

Zamfara state has two hundred and twenty eight registered poultry farms that help in providing meat requirement of the State citizens. This is in addition to thousands of bulls of eggs produced also by the layer chickens for people consumption.

The development in the livestock sub-sector has also led to the emergence of livestock markets in almost every parts of the country. In Northern Nigeria for instance, these types of markets played host to thousands of people. From middlemen, to various categories of livestock sellers, truck drivers as well as animal feed sellers. Kallamu (2017) argued, a livestock market in Zamfara had a carrying capacity of over ten thousand animals including cattle, sheep, goats, and chicken among other things. Isiyaka (2017) also argued, in Gummi livestock market alone, over forty trucks are loading ruminant animals to the southern parts of the country. In his argument, he added that, majority of the buyers are non Hausa speaking people mostly from the Yoruba parts of the country and that their patronage of the Gummi livestock market influenced a significant transformation of the sub-sector. In the 2014 survey conducted by a non-governmental organization in Zamfara state Budget Working Group, an estimated twelve thousand livestock markets accommodates not fewer than thirty five thousand livestock on weekly basis and played host to between twenty two to thirty five thousand people who take advantage of these markets to earn some sources of living BWG (2014). In terms of transaction, it was estimated that, nothing fewer than one billion naira exchanges hands through the sales of livestock in these twelve sampled markets in Zamfara state BWG (2017).

Another interesting aspect of livestock development in Northern Nigeria is milk processing and sales among Fulani women. This vocational skill of traditional milk selling is what distinguishes Fulani women even among thousands of their Hausa fares. No local market you will go in Zamfara state for instance without establishing the presence of female Fulani milk sellers. They work round every nooks and crannies of Zamfara for milk selling and the proceeds of the milk selling is used in providing the needs of the extended families at home. As argued by Ghandi (2017) sales of milk is indeed a proud of a typical Fulani woman. It is not for the sake of sustaining the proud of a Fulani tradition alone but a means of livelihood integration as the men and the entire family looks on to women processing and selling milk for feeding, medication and ceremonial needs of the entire family.

3. Zamfara and its Strategic Importance in Livestock Development

Zamfara is one of the states in Northern Nigerian that is known for livestock development several decades before independence. The state is strategic to grazing and other livestock related development because of its vast availability of virgin and arable land. it has an approximate of about over three hundred and fifty thousand hectares of land suitable for livestock grazing. As estimated by Buba (2017), the land in Zamfara is suitably capable of providing adequate food to over one hundred thousand ruminant animals including cattle, sheep, goats etc. Not only the availability of land, Zamfara provide the leeway for the trans-border livestock activities especially with the existence of various cattle routes that links Nigeria with the neighboring countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroun where livestock activities are also popular. As argued by Kiruwa (2017), Zamfara state is suitable to Fulani herders especially those coming from the neighboring states of Niger, Chad and Cameroun because of the fertility of the grasses and availability of watering places.

Zamfara State play host to one of the most strategic cattle routes patronizes by the Fulani herders on trans-humane activities. Sarkin Sudan (2017), argued that from Gurbin Bore in Zurmi local government area of Zamfara to Shinkafi, Kaura-namoda Dan-sadau and Birnin Gwari, Fulani herders access every parts of Zamfara either for direct grazing or passage to other strategic grazing places across Nigeria. Ummar (2017) argued on the other hand that, through Sokoto-Zamfara land border, between fifteen to thirty three thousand cattle access Nigeria for grazing activities. Majority of these Fulani relates directly with the communities on socio-economic and religious ground. This is evident with the establishment of various Fulani hamlets and shelter base along Gummi, Bukkuyum, Zuru and Kwantagora in Nigeria state. The strategic nature of Zamfara had also led to the establishment of numerous cattle ranches at Gisan Jaja in Zurmi local government area, Colony in Talatar-Mafara, Kwatarkwashi in Bungudu and Zugu in Bukkuyum local government. Beside this, government set aside some grazing reserve areas that is mainly for livestock grazing. Water for the livestock use was made available through the use of open rivers and artificial dams. Abdullahi (2017) argued, since early seventies when some of these grazing facilities were provided, Fulani herders continue to migrate in hundreds to settle in various parts of Zamfara state. These migration trends by the Fulani herders help in boosting the economy of Zamfara as livestock related activities continue to take the leading stage in the state's economic development projection.

Apart from the existence of over two dozen of weekly livestock markets across Zamfara, The strategic nature of the state makes it attractive for Fulani herders to establish a permanent settlement in some communities across Zamfara. As argued by Muallayadi (2017), communities like Kagara and Gidan Illo in Gummi local government, Tungar Hassan and Gidan Dawa in Bukkuyum local government areas in Zamfara were established by some fulani migrants for over thirty years as a way of sustaining their grazing activities around the state, Muallayadi (2017) argued that, there over two hundred hamlets and settlements manned by Fulani herders and not until recently when the crises between farmers and Fulani herders, Zamfara used to be one of the most hospitable for the Fulani people.

The hospitable nature of the people of Zamfara towards their fellow Fulani herders over some decades influenced an unending relationship between the duo which led to the development of some social relationship including marriages, cultural festivities and economic development. Shehu (2017) argued, between 1980 to 2007 over three hundred Fulani herders wed out their daughters to the Hausa clients in Zamfara. This development leads to an increasing social and cultural relationship. This relationship includes exchange of lingua-franca between Hausa and their Fulani herders as there are hundreds of Hausa people who speak Fulfulde fluently. Shehu (2017) argued that, the influence of the Fulani on the socio-cultural development of Zamfara people led to the inclusion of Fulfulde in the educational curriculum of the primary schools pupils as well as establishment of Nomadic Education Commission in Zamfara.

This commission has helped in lifting the status of the contribution of the Fulani towards transformation of Zamfara State especially by establishing over one hundred nomadic schools. The enrolment drive of the pupils in these schools served as an indicator that the community as a whole considered livestock development as integral parts of the development of Zamfara state.

4. Critical Issues Affecting Livestock Development in Zamfara State

Livestock sub-sector like several other sub-sectors has suffered series of policy neglect by both the present and successive governments in Nigeria over the years. This negative development has however, influenced some new emerging development that call for review and critical appraisal of the factors responsible for the challenges. To national leadership of Miyetti Allah Muhammadu Kiruwa argued, the contemporary crises affecting the development of livestock sub-sector has to do with the government priority choice. Agriculture has been accorded much priority in terms of budget and funding especially that, 99% of the government policy concentration are basically on agriculture alone and livestock only received a complimentary role any time pressure is mounted on the government Anka (2016).

One of the most critical challenges faced by the livestock sub-sector in Zamfara state is unending encroachment and taking over of grazing reserves by the farmers in the quest for more land to grow food. Babuga (2017) argued, our greater challenge as Fulani herders is how to access grazing areas for feeding of our livestock as farmers are always being favoured by the state authority in terms of any consideration. We have lost sensitive grazing areas along Dansadau, Gummi, Barikin Daji, Bingi-Kanoma and Zurmi area to large scale farmers who used political influence to rig us of our chances of survival. In a further account of how the challenges of grazing reserve encroachment impacted on the development of livestock sub-sector in Zamfara, Tukur (2017) argued, over sixteen thousand hectares of potential grazing areas all over the state have been illegally taking over by the farmers and the remaining portion of the land left for us remain stringent in meeting of our needs in terms of availability of food for our livestock.

Even those designated grazing areas in Zamfara such as Gidan Jaja, Faru, Zugu and Kwatarkwashi which used to be one of the best grazing alternative ground to Fulani herders in Zamfara are today a shadow of their former selves. They have not only being neglected by the government but were allow to be converted to farmlands by the local farmers who claimed they are legally occupants of the environment not their Fulani counterparts. As argued by Bwai (2014), these grazing reserves at Gidan Jaja, Faru, Zugu and Kwatarkwashi were established to provide annual live support to the Fulani herders who needs grasses all year round to feed their ruminant animals but it is unfortunate they are allow to be hijacked by the farmers who cannot utilize them to add any efficiency In to the nation's food security

This challenge is not only limited to grazing alone as watering which is an important, component of livestock development has also being a challenge to livestock herders in Zamfara state. Apart from the extinction of the existing dams provided in the early seventies and eighties, successive governments in both the former Sokoto and now Zamfara state have not intensified much effort to construct more dams along the grazing reserve areas for the Fulani herders. Sanusi (2017) argued, since the creation of Zamfara state in 1996, not up to ten water dams are constructed by the government in an attempt to enhance livestock development. Even the very few constructed along Bukkuyum, Gummi and Birnin Magaji local government are today non functional because there are no strong measures put in place to ensure the maintenance of these facilities. Babuga (2017) further argued that, the dams are even constructed at a location which by assumption many people says did not actually targets the Fulani herders.

Another challenge facing livestock development is the crises between farmers and Fulani herders. These crises though clearly not defined but contributed greatly in creating enmity and tension between Fulani and farmers. From 2011 to 2017, not fewer than three thousand people lost their lives to various crises involving Fulani and farmers. These crises are mostly fueled by land seizure crises, intimidation and harassment of the Fulani herders, as well as racial segregation. Kiruwa (2017) argued, for years especially after the 2011 general elections, Fulani in Zamfara state had suffered more than ever before; they were mercilessly eliminated and hated by the majority people of the state simply because they have spoken about freedom from marginalization and property seizure. Zamfara state Governor himself some times in 2014, described Fulani herders as the worst victims of socio-economic and political injustice. He emphasized that, the crises have led to the mass exodus of the Fulani herders and their livestock to an alternative destination Anka (2014). This is economically dangerous because a lot of Zamfara people would suffer from insufficiency of both meat, milk and other bye products produced through their activities. In complimenting this position, the national leadership of Miyetti Allah argued that, over one hundred groups of Fulani herders migrated out of Zamfara territory with thousands of their livestock to another location in Nigeria. These according to them have negative consequences on the economic strength of Zamfara state. Kiruwa (2017).

Marketing is another challenge facing livestock sub-sector in Zamfara state. Livestock herders suffered in terms of marketing their products especially diary. The locally made diary produced and sales to people through the traditional method has continue to be under-estimated due to the emergence of branded diary imported abroad. Even those indigenous people who enter in to modern diary production make it very difficult to market their locally made product because of the cost and quality inconsistencies. as argued by Adebija (2017), One of the major problems faced by cattle farmers is marketing. This involved fixing the right price for the products to maximize profits. Not only marketing, the cost of preparing the local diary to the minimum standard of the need of the people is another challenge to livestock farmers in Zamfara due to non-availability of the animals and technological constraints. Adebija (2017) argued, another problem is getting the products to diaries, the cost of hiring, transportation and getting luggage boys become an added cost which can't be avoided as farm owners try as much as possible to avoid the spoilage of the diary products in high quantity as they lack the capacity to store products until buyers come around.

Weather is another critical concern to the development of livestock in Zamfara state. Though our closeness with the neighboring Republic of Niger help some of our local and indigenous livestock to survive the harsh weather, the chances of importing foreign breeds especially for those who are in to commercial livestock rearing is characterized by high risk due to differences in weather condition. as argued by Adebija (2017), one of the problems facing cattle farmers in Nigeria is getting foreign breeds of cattle to survive in the tropical weather obtainable here in Nigeria. Most time some breeds of foreign cattle are not able to survive. They developed respiratory problems which lead to inactivity and finally death.

Inadequate budgetary provision for the livestock development is another source of concern to majority of the Fulani herders in Zamfara state. as argued by, Bachiri (2015), not much of the state budgetary allocation is provided to the livestock sub-sector simply because, government has not allocated much priority to the contribution of the livestock to the economic development of the state. This poor budgetary allocation to the sub-sector is not restricted to Zamfara state alone as the challenge remains a national concern. As argued by Mshelbwala (2013), Poor animal health services and infrastructure, inadequate budget for animal health programme, inadequate, obsolete legislation, lack of enforcement of existing laws and standard, desert encroachment, soil erosion, overgrazing and bush burning, presence of endemic livestock diseases and inappropriate tariffs and pricing of livestock and livestock products guaranteed minimum price. Government deliberate neglect of the sub-sector through policy disempowerment has contributed greatly in neglecting livestock development as stand-alone pillar of the state economic development. Sanusi (2017) argued, the policy direction on livestock development in Zamfara is not inconsistency with the contemporary demands of the sub-sector. The state operates with existing laws on livestock we inherited from the former Sokoto State and those laws reflect an extension of the colonial agenda on livestock. Bwai (2014) argued by extension that, the policies on livestock in Zamfara are both obsolete and irrelevant because they are not in conformity with the sub-sector demands and this is why the crises with the Fulani in Zamfara state remains unending. Makama (2017) argued that, since return to Civil rule in 1999, the legislation on livestock development remain inadequate in addressing the fundamental needs of the livestock development in Zamfara. In spite of all efforts to influence the upgrading of the status of the sub-sector, the government lack of interest on it draws the efforts back. Sanusi (2017) argued, a draft bill to strengthen the livestock sub-sector in Zamfara has been sent to the State House of Assembly since 2008 but nothing has been heard about the bill again because, the government priority is not concentrated on the sub-sector. In that bill a clause was specially included to upgrade the Directorate of animal health to the status of Ministry so that issues regarding its reforms could be initiated past but to the government specifically members of the State House of Assembly have failed to pass track the passage of the bill.

Societal impression about Fulani herders is also another challenge facing Livestock development. Not many people in the contemporary society of Nigeria considered Fulani herders as essentially important to the societal development. As argued by Labbo (2017), Fulani unlike before, are characterized as non-peace-loving people which assist in creating enmity between them and larger society. Not many societies in Zamfara freely accepted Fulani people and this phenomenon makes people distance themselves from livestock development generally. Kiruwa (2017) argued, the perception of the society towards Fulani and their livestock activities makes it difficult for them to act freely in society as they are called armed robbers, thieves, bandits, rustlers among many other names. On the other hand, Tukur (2017) argued that, out of 122 cases of suspected cattle rustling, reprisal attacks on communities in Zamfara are linked to the Fulani without much clear evidences to probe such allegations. These have caused Fulani people to lost millions of naira to hiring lawyers for prosecution and litigation.

Cases of cultural extinction is also another challenge facing Fulani and their livestock activities. Absence of free environment for the Fulani to associate with their peers during annual festivities and ceremonies make situation very boring for them stay. Lamido (2013) argued, in those days when we were children, we used to notice some cultural emotions that make their culture and livestock activities very passionate for the people of Zamfara state and Hausa community by extension. The annual stick wrestling, music and dance competitions, naming and wedding activities remain significantly essential in boosting the retention strategy of the Fulani herders. in the views Tukur (2017) such development is shapely in extinction within Zamfara unless in areas like Nasarawar Burkullu in Bukkuyum and Jangebe in Talatar Mafara local government areas of the state.

5. The Challenges of Policy Inconsistency on Livestock Development in Northern Nigeria

Earlier than Nigeria's Independence in 1960, colonial administrators have intensified greater effort to enhancing livestock sub-sector in its quest to integrating it in to the mainstream of the nation's economy. This yielded the requisite result because of the consistent and sound policies that were provided as well as adequate funds set aside to strengthen the sector. Countries that make livestock sub-sector sound and effective ensure the working of sound policies and review them from time to time. This specifically boosts the morale of the livestock herders as well as those that benefited from it. The general policy objective of the livestock sub-sector is to put all available livestock resources in to best use. This would be achieved through increase production either by expanding the resources base by increasing the productivity of the existing resources through systemic improvement of the national production system or both. MOA (No date).

At the early days of Nigeria's independence, efforts have been made by the government to strengthen the development of livestock sub-sector through intensified researches and establishment of various research centers across parts of Nigeria. as argued by Saka (No date), Veterinary research center at Vom was established since 1924 to carry out research on animal diseases and to produce vaccines to control or eradicate them, regional Ministry of Agriculture Outstations concerns with the breeding of special species of goats, sheep and cattle, Ministries of Animals and Forest Resources were opened at Tumu and Darazo in Bauchi, Kofare in Adamawa, Ilorin, as well as the Shika research station in

Zaria established in 1928. Also National Root Crop Research Institute Cassava utilization for poultry nutrition, the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMAR) for the production of fish meal, the Lake Chad and Kainji Lake Research Institutes all contributed in the development of livestock production. The end result of these policies on livestock encourages the development of some advance reforms by the Nigerian Universities to strengthen policy consistencies between the findings by these research centers and Universities. As argued by Saka (No date), Universities in Nigeria had also contributed significantly in the development of research. University of Ibadan, University of Ife and Ahmadu Bello University Zaria were the pioneers of agricultural and livestock research.

The failure of the policies to promote and enhance the development in the Universities and policy institutes on livestock may not be unconnected with the challenges of under-funding. The policies and practical result produced in the development of these institutes are sound enough to transform the livestock sub-sector but due to inadequate funding to implement the policies adequately not much needed result is achieved. This challenge is however not restricted to Nigeria alone as the developing and developed world suffered same phenomenon. As argued by, Winrock (1992), Livestock is under-funded and under-resourced throughout the developing world. As an example within the FAO, livestock is represented by a division within the agricultural department and received about half the budget of the fisheries sector which merits a full department.

Another challenge is absence of appropriate mechanism that helped in the successful implementation of these policies. As argued by Kiruwa (2017), sometimes wrong people are used in the implementation of sound policies and to make the situation worst, members of the Miyetti Allah at both national and states are not carried along in the processing and implementation of the policies. This has helped create disconnection between these policies and practical happening amongst Fulani herders and livestock development. To emphasize on this point of view Winrock (1992), Many livestock projects have failed because they are either implemented using inappropriate technologies or institutions were used or because they were implemented in an unfavorable policy environment.

In Zamfara State in particular, the greater challenge in terms of policy development and implementation is that government deliberately neglected the aspect policy development in the aspect of livestock because, of absence of interest and lack of due regard for the contribution of Fulani herders. Kiruwa (2017) argued, we have approached the state government through the State Assembly for sound policy draft on the development of livestock in Zamfara. On the Other hand, Sanusi (2017) argued, our greatest problem in the veterinary and livestock sub-sector is lack of relevant policies that would enhance the status of our job. The existing policies are obsolete and do not reflect the reality of the sub-sector in Zamfara state. What we need is review of these obsolete policies to enable us transform the livestock sub-sector to a full pledge economic pillar of the state.

The policies on land use in Zamfara are also weak in promoting livestock development in Zamfara. The non availability of the grazing land faced by the Fulani herders is caused by the deliberate attempt of the policy makers to sidelined livestock in favour of agriculture and food production. Sanusi (2017) argued, herders are losing substantial portion of their grazing land because of the emerging urbanization plans and government increasing interest of agricultural activities. Effort by the Miyetti Allah cattle breeders association in collaboration with development partners to influence policy reforms in the aspect of land use to favour Fulani herders failed because other stakeholders are not willing to support the effort. As argued by Bachiri (2017), stakeholders are not willing to support policy reforms on land use in favour of Fulani herders because, they don't look at livestock as critical sector to the development of the economy of the state.

6. Conclusion

From the discussion so far it is very clear that, livestock sub-sector is facing enormous challenges especially, government's lack of pro-activeness in promoting its transformation through policy revolutions and re-structuring. Not only that, according priority to agriculture alone as panacea to enhancing food security for the nation remain key challenge of misperception on the roles of the livestock to the development of the nation's food security. It is an establish position by this research that, government policy redirection through new reforms on land, water and human resource are the only solution to reviving the sub-sector for optimal benefit to the people of Zamfara state.

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