

EFFECTIVENESS OF ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PEACE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (PSC) IN FARMER-PASTORALIST CONFLICT PREVENTION IN IBADAN/IBARAPA AGRICULTURAL ZONE OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA

NS Sangotegbe, AB Oguntoyinbo and JO Oluwasusi

Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

Accepted 10th February 2015

ABSTRACT

Conflict resolution approach of Local Government Peace and Security Committee (PSC) set up in Ibarapa area of Oyo state is pertinent and exemplary to the realization of the important goal of a food secured country and achievement of sustainable agricultural development policy in the country. The study examined stakeholders' effectiveness of role of Local Government PSC in preventing farmer-pastoralist conflicts in Ibadan/Ibarapa Agricultural zone of Oyo State, Nigeria. A total of 170 respondents (86 farmers and 84 pastoralists) were selected through a multi-stage sampling procedure. Data were analysed by descriptive statistics, chi-square and Correlation. Majority (80.3%) were below 50 years of age. There were more males than females. Destruction of crops, water pollution and competition for land were the main causes of farmer-pastoralist conflicts. Respondents were aware of preventive measures of payment of fines by the violators (81.2%), formation of local community associations (77.1%) likewise education of herders and farmers (76.5%) as measures adopted for conflict resolution. Sex, religion, educational status, marital status and age were significantly related to perceived effectiveness of roles of PSC. Cattle rustling ($r=0.208$), destruction of crops ($r = 0.170$), female harassment ($r = 0.180$) and water pollution ($r=0.275$) showed positive and significant relationship with perceived effectiveness of PSC. The t-test result shows that the perception of farmers (Mean = 66.93) and pastoralists (Mean = 77.93) were significantly different ($t = -59$) in terms the effectiveness of roles of the PSC committee. Measures used by the PSC were not effective enough, more pro-active measures to resolve farmer-herder conflicts should be incorporated through a participatory approach.

Keywords: Conflicts, Effectiveness, Farmers, Pastoralists

INTRODUCTION

Conflict in communities inhibits the process of wellbeing and hence, development. Conflict is that form of social interaction in which the actors seek to obtain scarce resources by eliminating or weakening their contenders (Ekong, 2003). Conflict between farmers and pastoralists has always been a common feature of economic livelihood in West Africa (Tonah, 2006). Pastoralists bring their cattle from the arid and semi-arid areas to the forest zones in which Ibarapa Local Government Area is situated, in search for pastures that is available almost throughout the year. However, prior to the beginning of the 20th century, clashes were not experienced in Ibarapa Agricultural zone in general. This is because pastoralists kept their animals away from farming area most of the time and thus reduce the incidence of livestock

destroying crops (Tonah, 2006). During that time too, cattle population was low in the humid and sub-humid zones of West Africa. The low human population, high number of wild animals and fear of losing animals to diseases, especially trypanosomiasis, prevented pastoralists from settling permanently in the humid zone (Bench, 2004).

There is consensus among observers that farmer-pastoralist clashes have only become widespread since the 20th century in the coastal countries of West Africa (Tonah, 2006). Accessing vast area of pasture and water by herders in meeting the nutrient requirement of their increasing livestock production, in abeyance of specified boundary provision for expanded crop production and farming activities in areas hitherto provided pasture land for animal grazing often resort to stiff competition for available resources by the herders and crop farmers

*Corresponding author: siji004u@yahoo.com

with the present burgeoning human population. This stimulates conflict between the herders and farmers which often lead to loss of lives and properties, likewise threat to peace and national stability of the country. Factors that account for increasing farmers–pastoralists conflicts further, include the south-ward movement of pastoralists into the humid and sub-humid zones, the successful control of the menace posed by diseases, the wide-spread availability of veterinary services, and cultivation of land that hitherto served as pasture land (Tonah, 2006). Cattle herders in Nigeria are predominantly Fulanis', minority in many host communities and have unique culture and different sense of solidarity from the host community. Conflict between these communities often leads to tribal and inter-ethnic issues, which have multiplier effects of huge economic and livelihood losses to families, local governments and states in the multi-ethnic society of Nigeria.

Furthermore, it is widely acknowledged that since 1950s there has been considerable increase in human as well as livestock population in the coastal countries of West Africa. The result has been a growing pressure on natural resources between farmers and pastoralists (Adebayo, 1995).

Diverse studies have shown that community based associations and institutions can be very effective and fulfilling in controlling the activities of nomadic pastoralists referred to as Fulani herdsmen in the country. Community based institutions are expected to work closely with local, state and national governments to ensure effective control of farmers–pastoralists conflicts so that they do not go beyond local levels. The resolution of such conflicts can be seen as an integral part of the function of community development committees.

Throughout West Africa nations, the arising incidence of farmer - pastoralist conflicts and violence that frequently erupt accompanies such conflicts, have become an issue of public concern (Tonah, 2006). These conflicts are not only threat to peace and national stability but also have implications for national development. Clashes between farmers and pastoralists frequently move from the northern part of Ni-

geria to the south-western part of Nigeria where the study area is located.

Local Government Peace and Security Committee (PSC) was formed by the former military Head of State, General Ibrahim Babangida. The committee was inaugurated and signed by then Vice-Head of State Admiral A.A Aikhomu on 25th November, 1992. It comprises of Chairman of the local government as the chairman of the committee, one representative of the Nigeria Police Force (DPO) as the Deputy Chairman, secretary to the local government as committee secretary, one representative of the state security service as member, one representative of the Army unit (where applicable), one representative of the Naval unit (where applicable), one representative of the Air force unit (where applicable), the most senior traditional ruler of the local government or his representative as members; two members of the local government area of whom should be non-indigenes, and one representative of women organisation as member of the committee.

The committees have worked over the years and despite this, some of the areas experience some conflicts while other conflict-prone areas have become free of conflict. It is therefore important to assess how effective the peace and security committees have been in the area, known for its exploits in food production and green pasture. Specifically, the study sets out to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents; identify the causes of farmer–pastoralist conflicts in the study area; examine the respondents' awareness of measures taken by Local government Peace and Security Committee to prevent or manage conflicts among farmer and pastoralist in the study area; and determine farmers and pastoralist perception of effectiveness of conflict prevention of PSC.

It was hypothesised that no significant relationship existed between respondents perceived-causes of conflict experienced and perceptions of effectiveness of peace and security committee, and that no significant difference existed between farmers and pastoralists' in their perception of the effectiveness of peace and security committee in conflict prevention.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study area was carried out in Ibarapa Central Local Government Area of Oyo State, having been purposively selected from the zone due to high prevalence of farmers-pastoralist conflict. The area is located in the southern part of Oyo State, Nigeria. It is bounded to the East by Ibarapa East, and to the North by Ibarapa North Local Government Areas, South by Abeokuta North Local Government of Ogun State and West, it is bounded by the Republic of Benin and Ido local government of Oyo State. The area is blessed with fertile and productive soil that can support the growth of permanent and arable crops as well as green pastures that attract pastoralist and rivers that can make water available throughout the drying season of the year. A total of 86 and 84 farmers were respectively selected for the study through a multi-stage sampling technique. In the first stage, stakeholders were stratified into 2 groups of Fulani herdsmen and Yoruba crop farmers. The second stage involved a sampling of 4 communities from a total of 39 rural communities across the LGA. A list of crop farmers was obtained from crop farmers association in the third stage while convenience sampling was used in sampling a total of 84 Fulani herdsmen. The fourth stage involved a simple random sampling of crop farmers from a list of about 171 crop farmers. Interview schedule was used to elicit information from the respondents.

Perceived causes of farmers-pastoralists conflicts was measured in terms of frequency of occurrence of each of the causes, as always, occasionally, rarely and never with scores of 3, 2, 1, and 0 assigned respectively. Perception of the effectiveness of the PSC committee was measured using a 5-point Likert-type scale of Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Undecided, Disagreed and Strongly Disagreed for each of the 20 perception statements used, with a score of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 assigned respectively, for positive statements, and a reverse for the negative statements. Awareness of measures adopted for conflict prevention was

determined by assigning 1 to awareness, and 0 to non-awareness, for each of the awareness items. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. Frequency and percentages were used in presenting data for all the specific objectives of the study. The use of weighted mean was also employed to rank respondents' perceived causes of conflicts in order of frequency of occurrence. Weighted mean was also used to present items on perceived effectiveness scale, so as to ascertain how effective each measure adopted was, as perceived by respondents. An index each, of perceived effectiveness and awareness was therefore computed which is a function of total number of items responded to, and what value assigned to each response. This presented at interval level of measurement and thus makes it suitable for a Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis. Use of Spearman Rho was adopted for correlation between each perceived causes of conflict and overall perceived effectiveness of the PSC conflict resolution strategies, because the data obtained were measured at ordinal level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 show that a large proportion of the respondents fell between the ages of 21-30 (20.6%), 31-40 (31.2%) and 41-50 (26.5%), all totalling 78.3%, with the mean age of 42 years. The average age of the respondents implies that many of them were in their active ages and are likely to be aware of the pastoralist-farmers conflict scenarios. The study revealed that there were more males (80.0%) than their female counterparts (20%). The larger percentage of the respondents being males depicts that farming and pastoralism are important livelihood activities for men in the study area. This corroborates the a priori believe that the male in the Nigerian communities as patriarch, is assigned and subsumed with the responsibility to shoulder the bulk of the family needs as the crux of the ethos and gender roles of successful livelihood in the nation. Majority (75.3%) of the respondents

are Muslims. This implies that the predominance of Islamic religion among the respondents could allow for the acceptability and dominance of nomadic herdsmen who have migrated from the Northern part of the country by the farmers who are the land owners, as adopted kith and kin, brethren of the same religious faith, as the impact of religion in any society cannot be over-emphasized. Religion has a way of influencing people's perception through the influence of the spiritual leaders and religious teachings.

Majority (57.1%) of the respondents had non-formal educational, while very small proportion of the population (4.7%) had tertiary education. The high illiteracy level among the respondents implies that the cultivators and pastoralists are predominantly non-literates, indicating that many of the respondents may not know how to read and write. This could be inimical to hospitality and harmonious relationship among respondents, as it avails suspicion and misinterpretation of values and interests of parties in their livelihood practices and interactions if there is no constituted body to continually sensitize them on need for tolerance and ensure harmonious living as they undergo their livelihood practices. Majority (84.7%) of the respondents were married. A high proportion of the respondents (44.2%) had 1-10 years of farming experience while a few proportion (2.4%) had above 40 years farming experience respectively with a mean years of farming of 18 years. The long average years of farming experience among the respondents is a function of age and it could determine the perception of respondents on the effectiveness of PSC in terms of success and failures recorded over time to the best of their knowledge on their livelihood activities and harmonious relationships.

A small proportion (38.2%) of the respondents had access to credit facilities in their farming operations. The table also reveals the various sources from which farmers obtained credit facilities, as cooperatives (17%) and money lender (15.3%) were the main sources of credit facilities to the respondents, as

against banks (5.3%) and government (2.9%) which were poorly accessed by the respondents for credit. The low proportion of respondents having access to credit facilities to support their farming operations through informal sources as credit institutions, implies that there may not be a good credit scheme for the respondents in the study area.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents according to their Age, Sex, Religion, Educational Status, Marital Status, and Farming Experience

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age:			
11-20	1	0.6	42
21-30	35	20.6	
31-40	53	31.2	
41-50	45	26.5	
51-60	22	12.9	
>60	14	9.3	
Sex			
Male	136	80.0	
Female	34	20.0	
Religion			
Islam	128	75.3	
Christian	35	20.6	
Traditional	7	4.1	
Educational status			
Non formal Education	97	57.1	
Primary Education	29	17.1	
Secondary Education	8	4.7	
Tertiary Education	36	21.2	
Marital status			
Single	20	11.8	
Married	144	84.7	
Widowed	6	3.5	
Farming experience			
1-10	75	44.1	18
11-20	44	25.9	
21-30	26	15.3	
31-40	17	10.0	
>40	8	4.8	
Access to credit facilities			
	65	38.2	
Sources of credit facilities			
Banks	9	5.3	
Cooperatives	30	17.6	
Money lenders	23	15.3	
Government	5	2.9	

The result of Table 2 shows that respondents opined that destruction of crops were perceived to always (32.9%) and occasionally (50.6%) caused farmer-pastoralists conflict in the study area. Water pollution was also perceived as an important cause of conflict among 18.8% (always) and 50.6% (occasionally) of the respondents. Overgrazing (16.5% always) and (54.7%, occasionally) was also an important perceived cause of conflict. The mean perception of each of the cause of conflict was used to rank respondents' perceived causes of conflicts in order of frequency of occurrence. The result shows that destruction of crops (2.15), water pollution (1.97), competition for land, and land exposure to erosion (1.83) were the four most important causes of conflict among cultivators and pastoralists in that order. Female harassment (1.16) ethnic difference (1.35) was

seen as the less important causes of conflict, having the least mean values. The results indicate that issues challenging to the local community security and the farming enterprises of the respondents development are the increase in agitation for control of resources, encroachment of the rights of concerned parties through unstable claims and counter claims on land and water resources. The unspecified territorial boundaries for animal grazing and crop farming pressure by pastoralists and farmers through non-validated agreement on vital resources is in no mean measure reflecting tensions and varying degree of conflicts in agrarian environments. The result is in agreement with a study on farmer-pastoralist conflict in northern Nigeria, that destruction of crops is a major cause of conflict among farmers and pastoralist in Nigeria (Ofuoku, 2004).

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their perceived causes of farmers/ pastoralist conflict

Causes of conflicts	Always	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Mean
Destruction of crops	56(32.9)	86(50.6)	25(14.7)	3(1.8)	2.15
Competition for land	43(25.3)	66(38.8)	52(30.6)	9(5.3)	1.84
Cattle rustling	26(15.3)	82(48.2)	36(21.2)	26(15.3)	1.64
Ethnic Harassment	23(13.5)	65(38.2)	48(28.2)	34(20.0)	1.45
Female Harassment	10(5.9)	58(34.1)	52(30.6)	50(29.4)	1.60
Water pollution	52(30.6)	74(43.5)	31(18.2)	13(7.6)	1.97
Land exposure to erosion	32(18.8)	86(50.6)	44(25.9)	8(4.7)	1.83
Overgrazing	28(16.5)	93(54.7)	33(19.4)	16(9.4)	1.78

Table 3 reveals the perception of the stakeholders of the effectiveness of the measures used by the local government peace security committee constituted. The top four items which respondents favourably perceived effective included: quick intervention of the PSC helps prevent conflicts (mean = 4.34), PSC are known as peace keepers in Ibarapa central local government areas and they are performing well (mean = 4.77), and 'education of farmers and pastoralists about their interdependence has been one of the most effective ways of preventing conflicts' (mean = 4.21). Also, the table shows

the items which the respondents least favourably perceived, consisting of: 'There have been disturbing cases of farmer-pastoralist conflicts since the constitution of the peace and security committee' (mean= 2.85); 'PSC only exists as a name, they have not lived up to their bilings' (mean=2.98); and 'Peace and Security Committee is a political organization; their activities have been far from commendable' (mean = 3.16). The overwhelming favourable response of the majority of the respondents to their credited statements on quick intervention of PSC in mediating differences between parties, good

sensitization of respondents on conduct of peaceful livelihood practices and agreed good performance of the PSC through their mean scores on the issues addressed shows that harmony is witnessed and ensured through the constituted PSC. This may be that respondents are intimidated with the nitty-gritty of the

body, sanctioned penalties of disobedience to rules and effective sensitization programmes on harmonious relationship as the engage in their livelihood activities while the unfavourable perception on the PSC could be a result

Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on their perception of effectiveness of Peace Security Committee

Perception statements	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean
Quick intervention of PSC help to prevent conflicts among farmer-pastoralist	77(45.3)	83(48.8)	4(2.4)	2(1.2)	4(2.4)	4.34
Peace and security committee (PSC) is a political organisation; their achievements have been far from commendable.	19(11.2)	35(20.6)	39(22.9)	53(31.2)	24(14.1)	3.16
Approaches adopted by PSC in farmer-pastoralist conflicts prevention can do little or nothing to farmer-pastoralists conflicts in this local government area.	16(9.4)	25(14.7)	40(23.5)	67(39.4)	22(12.9)	3.30
PSC are bribery collection organisation, and this has greatly affected their performance.	14(8.2)	17(10.0)	26(15.3)	63(37.1)	50(29.4)	3.69
PSC are known as peace keepers in Ibarapa Central Local Government Area and they are really performing well	81(47.6)	67(39.4)	13(7.6)	6(3.5)	3(1.8)	4.27
PSC should be highly recognised by the government and their activities should be given priority.	63(37.1)	91(53.5)	8(4.7)	6(3.5)	3(1.8)	4.21
PSC only exists as a name; they have not lifted up to their billings	23(10.6)	43(28.8)	37(21.8)	49(28.8)	18(10.6)	2.98
Ever since the constitution of PSC, conflict between pastoralists and farmers have been reduced to the barest minimum	40(23.5)	88(51.8)	24(14.1)	11(6.5)	7(4.1)	3.84
Education of farmers and pastoralists about their inter-dependence has been one of the most effective ways of preventing farmer-pastoralist conflicts in this community	70(41.2)	76(44.7)	15(8.8)	7(4.1)	2(1.2)	4.21
Formation of farmer association has worked tremendously in achieving conflict prevention among Fulani pastoralists and farmers.	44(25.9)	88(51.8)	24(14.1)	11(6.5)	3(1.8)	2.94
Farmer association will only keep increasing occurrence of conflicts among farmers and pastoralists; another method could be better.	13(7.6)	36(21.2)	39(22.9)	66(38.8)	16(9.4)	3.21
Cash compensation of the aggrieved herders and farmers has been an effective way of preventing farmer-pastoralist conflict in this community.	41(24.1)	89(52.4)	28(16.5)	9(5.3)	3(1.8)	3.92
Cash compensation has rather led to further misunderstanding and thus it is an ineffective way of conflict prevention.	13(7.6)	37(21.8)	34(20.0)	43(25.3)	43(25.3)	3.39
Since many aggrieved farmers and pastoralists are being well compensated, frequency of occurrence of conflicts has been very reduced	54(31.8)	76(44.7)	22(12.9)	12(7.1)	6(3.5)	3.94
Punishing offenders has continued to aggrieve the victims, and has rather led to more conflict than reduce it	11(6.5)	26(15.3)	40(23.5)	62(36.5)	31(18.2)	3.45
There have always been very disturbing cases of farmer-pastoralist conflicts since the constitution of the Peace and Security Committee in this Local Government Area.	25(14.7)	41(24.1)	42(24.7)	57(33.5)	5(2.9)	2.85
Farmers and pastoralists now see themselves as partners in progress, that they are inter-dependent and are not enemies. This was not until the constitution of PSC in this local government	40(23.5)	91(53.5)	19(11.2)	12(7.1)	8(4.7)	3.84
Government should create another means of preventing conflict between the farmers and pastoralists; PSC has not in any way been effective.	17(10.0)	31(18.2)	21(12.4)	59(34.7)	42(24.7)	3.45
Conflicts is a normal thing among pastoralists and farmers, and therefore no method can stop it; not even the PSC.	16(9.4)	17(10.0)	23(13.5)	39(22.9)	75(44.1)	3.82

of mischievousness and non-support by the few respondents to the activities of the PSC.

Table 4 shows the findings on the awareness of the respondents of the various measures adopted by the PSC in preventing conflicts among respondents. There was a high level of awareness of the measures taken by this committee among the respondents in order of payment of fines by the violators (81.2%) ranked number one followed by formation of local community association (77.1%). Others were education of herders and farmers (76.5%), punishment of offenders (73.5%) and the least ranked measure was compensation of aggrieved farmer/pastoralists (69.4%). It is found that farmers-herder conflicts relating to destruction of crops are usually resolved by payment of compensation to the farmer by the herder or the herd owner while other constitutional roles of respondents and sanctions to be meted with in retrospective to offences dealt with by PSC, informs high adherence to stipulated rules and guidelines of livelihood practices among respondents. The results imply that the exercise of will power and visible action by the Peace Security Committee (PSC) on the security of the lives and means of livelihood of the pastoralists and farmers, like cattle and farmlands guarantee for safety, allays fear and suspicion of prejudice of PSC that could arise among respondents in their livelihood practices. PSC also strengthens community capacity in managing their resources and handling of conflicts for harmonious relationships and peaceful co-existence among dwellers. Therefore, the findings show that since a large number of the respondents were aware of the measures adopted by the PSC in preventing conflicts among respondents, this helps them to form

an informed perception of the effectiveness of these measures and activities of PSC.

Table 5 shows that respondents sex ($\chi^2 = 6.80$) and religion ($\chi^2 = 17.682$) were significant to their perceived effectiveness of the measures taken by peace and security committee in preventing farmer pastoralist conflicts in the study area ($p < 0.05$). The results suggest that the differences in the level of activities of male and female respondents, with men playing the statutori role of home builders and community leaders while women being custodians of the cultural heritage symbolized in processing of crops and milk products of cattle. These would crave their indulgence from disallowing their activities to go into extinction through full weight support to measures that could be adopted to ensure security of lives and livelihood activities in their dwelling environment. Islamic hegemony in the community ensures non-hostility as other less dominant religion agrees with Islam in profess of peace, love and harmony among followers and extension to neighbours. This may be a catalyst to the inclination and embrace of measures adopted by the Peace Security Committee (PSC) to uphold peace and harmony between pastoralists and farmers in the study area. Also, there is a significant relationship between respondents educational status and their perceived effectiveness of conflict prevention measures of the PSC committee ($\chi^2 = 31.979$, $p < 0.000$). This indicates that education allows for flexibility, foster understanding, employs mutual respects, eschews breakage of law and order, provides safety and sustainability of livelihood activities through better, dynamic and efficient response to changing circumstances in human environment per unit time. Marital status of respondents is also significantly related to their perception of effectiveness of measures taken to prevent conflict ($\chi^2 = 10.778$, $P < 0.005$). The result suggests also that married respondents are more likely to engage in conflict resolution to differences compared to the unmarried respondents. This may be as a result of the fact that

Table 4. Distribution of respondents according to their awareness of the measures taken to prevent conflicts

Measure taken	Frequency (%)	Rank
Formation of local Community Farmers Association	131 (77.1)	2
Compensation of aggrieved farmers/herders	118 (69.4)	5
Punishment of offenders	125 (73.5)	4
Educating farmers and herders on their interdependence	130 (76.5)	3
Payment of fines to violators	138 (81.2)	1

married respondents have family and dependants to cater for and are careful to involve in a conflict exercise of dispute resolution that can affect the welfare of their household rather, they would seek and consent to peaceful approaches unlike the unmarried who have less answer to dependents and responsibilities. Age is significantly related to respondents perception ($r = 0.566, p < 0.05$). This implies that age predicates life experience, attracts exemplar leadership as younger generation looks up to the aged for learning, emulation of good virtues, aged regulate mutual coexistence of his people in the harmonious sharing of the competed resources through flexibility demonstrations and love for lawful communal transition. The aged will likely adopt peaceful

Table 5: Chi-square table of selected socio-economic characteristics of

Variable	χ^2	Df	P	Remark
Sex	6.801**	1	0.009	Significant
Religion	17.682**	2	0.000	Significant
Educational status	31.979**	3	0.000	Significant
Marital status	10.778**	2	0.005	Significant

*, ** : Significant at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

Table 6: PPMC result showing relationship between age and respondents' perceived effectiveness of PSC

Variables	r	P	Remark
Age	0.566**	0.000	Significant

*, ** : Significant at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

approach to mend differences and resolve crisis situation.

Table 7 presents the t-test result of the comparison of farmers and pastoralists' perceptions of effectiveness of PSC in preventing farmer-pastoralist conflicts. It shows that there is a significant difference between them ($t = -5.91, P < 0.05$). The result implies that there is a variation in the perception of the farmers and pastoralists on the viability and effectiveness of the measures adopted by the Peace Security Committee (PSC) in preventing and resolving conflicts in the study area. It

shows that the stiffen the conditions specified by PSC in performance of livelihood activities of pastoralism and crop production, the more the adopted measures employed by PSC is perceived negative and non-totally effective with some intolerance and less conformity attributes exhibited by deviants and violators who find the rules inflexible. Furthermore, it suggests that the measures adopted by the PSC have not effectively served the interests of both parties. It deduces that the measures adopted by the PSC are not free from bias and total acceptability was difficult was from both

Table 7: T-test results for the perception of respondents of effectiveness of

Variables	No Of cases	Mean	SD	Standard error	Mean difference	T-value	P	Decision
Farmers	86	69.31	9.17	0.99	-8.62	-5.91*	0.000	Significant
Pastoralists	84	77.93	9.83	1.07	-8.62			

*, ** : Significant at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

ends difficult. Perception is therefore, relative to the respondents.

Table 8 reveals that a correlation of each cause of conflicts experienced and respondents' perception of the effectiveness of PSC shows that cattle rustling ($r = -0.208$) and destruction of crops ($r = -1.70$) show a negative and significant ($p < 0.05$) relationship with farmers perception of effectiveness of the committee. However, female harassments ($r = 0.180$) and water pollution ($r = 0.275$) showed positive and significant relationship with respondents' perception of effectiveness of the PSC committee. The results imply that cattle rustling and destruction of crops are still important causes of conflicts among the respondents and measures taken by PSC have not been effective in the prevention of these conflict situations. Cattle rustling and destruction of crops have not effectively reduced with the laid out rules stipulated for compliance, plausible due to insufficient sensitization campaigns and less stiffened penalties employed

by PSC as sanctions on violators of rules guiding respondents' operations. This corroborates the a priori believe that improper prioritisation of harmonious living and efficient production factors, like cattle production and crop production as the nexus and reason for the integration of the respondents in the community will always trigger conflicts as bounds and guidelines of livelihood operations remain unclear to respondents. The table also reveals female harassment and water pollution

have been reduced considerably by the activities of the PSC. This could be as a result of more clarity on the guidelines of livelihood activities participation by respondents through PSC effective enlightenment campaigns and stiff sanctions employed on female harassment to the women as vulnerable group and water pollution as reprisal attacks on disagreement, intolerance and conflict by the farmers and the pastoralists ensured refrain of male respondents from these dastard acts.

Table 8: Spear man Rho's Correlation between causes of conflicts and respondents' perception of effectiveness of PSC

		Destruction of crops	Competition for land	Rustling	Ethnic harassment	Female harassment	Water pollution
Perception	r-value	-0.170*	0.027	-0.208**	0.033	0.180*	0.275**
	P-value	0.027	0.731	0.007	0.673	0.019	0.000
	Remark	S	NS	S	NS	S	S

*, **: Significant at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

CONCLUSION

It is drawn from the study that the perceived causes of conflicts between farmers and pastoralists are destruction of crops, cattle rustling, water pollution emanating from competition for the natural resources in the environment, while female harassment and water pollution have been addressed with some degrees of effectiveness. Respondents' perception of the effectiveness of the committee was also seen to vary from one item to the other. Majority of the respondents had favourable perception of the effectiveness of the measures used by the Peace and Security Committee in preventing conflict in the study area. The study also concludes that the PSC was not seen at the same level of effectiveness in their approaches at preventing conflicts among farmers and pastoralists by the major stakeholders involved. For any programme to be said to be effective, it must be seen as such by all concerned. It can therefore be said that more proactive measures are imperative for a sustainable and more effective conflict pre-

vention strategies among farmers and pastoralists in the study area. The study also established that sex, religion, educational status, marital status and age, are significantly related to respondents' perception of effectiveness of PSC. Based on the findings of this research work, the following recommendations are made:

More pro-active measures to resolve farmer-herder conflicts should be incorporated through a participatory approach

A process of enlightenment for both farmers and pastoralists should be considered a priority, as this will help respondents see each other as partners in progress, as far as contribution to household food security is concerned;

Crop farmers and herders should be both enlightened on the negative social and economic loss of conflicts, and why issues should be resolved as soon as they are noticed.

REFERENCES

- Adebayo AG 1995 Of man and cattle: A re-consideration of the tradition of origin of pastoral Fulani of Nigeria. In: History of Africa 18 (1991). pp 1-21.
- Bench R 2004 Conflict between pastoralists and cultivators in Nigeria. Kay Williamson Educational Foundation Cambridge, <http://www.rogerbtench.infor/RBOP.htm>
- Ekong EE 2003 An Introduction to Rural Sociology. Dove Educational Publishers, Uyo, Nigeria.
- Ofuoku A 2004 Role of CDC in farmer – pastoralist conflicts. Journal of alternative perspective in the Social Sciences 1(3): 921-937.
- Tonah S 2006 State policies, local prejudices and the cattle rustling along the GhanaBurkina Faso border, Africa 70 (4): 551-567.