



**FARMER-HERDER CONFLICT: EXPLORING THE CAUSES AND  
MANAGEMENT APPROACHES IN THE LAKE CHAD REGION**

**NIGERIA.**

**BY**

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**BEING A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, COLLEGE  
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UTARA MALAYSIA**

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## **ABSTRAK (BAHASA MELAYU)**

Abad ke-21 menyaksikan peningkatan konflik keganasan antara petani dan penggembala dalam kedua-dua koridor pedalaman Barat Laut dan Timur Laut Nigeria. Sejak kebelakangan ini, Tasik Chad telah menjadi salah satu medan pertempuran bagi konflik ini. Lembah ini mempunyai potensi ekonomi yang sesuai untuk kegiatan pertanian dan penggembalaan, lantas menarik penggembala dari zon yang mempunyai corak ekologi berbeza, seperti Chad, Niger dan Republik Cameroun untuk menetap di kawasan pedalaman di lembangan tasik Nigeria. Sememangnya, keganasan antara penggembala yang baru tiba dan petani tuan rumah yang membawa kepada beberapa pembunuhan dan kemusnahan telah menjadi satu kebiasaan dan semakin menjadi-jadi. Kajian ini yang menggunakan kaedah temubual dalaman (In-depth interview), perbincangan kumpulan fokus (Focus Group Discussion), serta pemerhatian bukan-peserta (Non-participant observation, dalam mengumpul data dari responden sasaran [petani; penggembala; pemimpin tradisional dan pegawai-pegawai kerajaan]. Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa faktor faktor seperti kekurangan kawasan ragut dan laluan binatang peliharaan, perubahan di dalam sistem pemegangan tanah, kelemahan perundangan di kawasan pedalaman, perkembangan polisi pertanian, faktor-faktor ekonomi serta perubahan cuaca adalah penyumbang kepada punca jangka masa panjang konflik, manakala kemusnahan hasil tanaman, serangan ke atas binatang ternakan, kepercayaan etnik dan socio-budaya, peranan sesebuah negeri, faktor politik serta tingkah laku ganas penggembala telah membawa kepada punca serta merta konflik antara petani-penggembala di kawasan Tasik Chad. Kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa, di kawasan kajian, konflik diuruskan melalui pendekatan tradisional dan moden. Kepimpinan sosial, ekonomi, politik dan tradisional merupakan pendekatan tradisional, manakala pentadbiran, perundangan dan kehakiman merupakan pendekatan moden. Sebagai kesimpulannya, kedua dua pihak; petani dan penggembala percaya evolusi. Negara moden telah mengubah sistem urus tadbir konflik tradisional berdasarkan komuniti yang telah dibangunkan berdasarkan kesucian norma norma dan nilai nilai tradisi. Akhir kata, kajian ini mencadangkan satu alternatif untuk menguruskan konflik antara petani dan penggembala di dalam masyarakat majmuk di Nigeria, yang menekankan kepada strategi pencegahan melalui urus tadbir yang baik.

### **ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century heralded an upsurge of violent conflict between farmers and herders in the two pastoral corridors of Northeast and Northwestern Nigeria. The Lake Chad region has been one of the battlefields for these conflicts in recent years. The basin's economic potentials for both farming and herding attracted herders from other ecological zones, in Chad, Niger and Cameroun Republics to settle in the hinterlands of the Nigerian lake basin. Indeed, violence became common and widespread between newly arrived herders and their host farmers leading to several killings and destructions. The study utilized In-depth Interview, Focus Group Discussion, Non-participant observation in eliciting data from targeted respondents [farmers; herders; traditional leaders and government officials]. The study found out that, factors such as inadequate grazing reserve and stock routes; changes in land tenure system; insufficient legislation pastoralism; expansion in agricultural policies; economic factors and climate change are the long-term causes of the conflict. While crop damage; cattle raids; ethnicity and socio-cultural believes; the role of the state; political factor and herders' aggressive behaviors have been responsible for the immediate causes of farmer-herder conflicts in the Lake Chad region. The study also found out that, there exist traditional and modern approaches through which farmer-herder conflicts are manage in the study area. The traditional approaches include social, economic, political and traditional leadership. While administrative, legislative and judicial constitute the modern approaches. In conclusion, both farmers and herders believe that the evolution of modern state has altered their community-based traditional conflict management systems that developed on the sanctity of traditional norms and values. Finally, the study articulated an alternative proposal for managing of farmer-herder conflict in a plural society like Nigeria, which emphasizes prevention strategies through good governance.

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Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 will remain indelible in my mind because it was a mix feeling of joy and sadness. On that day morning, I successfully presented and defended my thesis for the award of PhD with joy and happiness. Barely eight hours later, had the joy suddenly cut short when I received the saddest news of the death of my beloved wife Hadiza Mohammed Kala (May her soul rest in ALJANNA FIDDAUSI) leaving behind four children (Maryam 6, Mohammed 4, Ahmad 2 and Aisha the youngest 4/months). Unmindful of all odd she stayed with me in Malaysia for seven months during my studies. Her impeccable love, support, patience and perseverance, advices are partly responsible for my successes in life. My prayers for her, our deceased parents and our children will endlessly remain until eternity.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this dissertation to my beloved late wife Hadiza Mohammed Kala and my children Maryam Hamman, Mohammed Hamman, Ahmad Hamman and Aisha Hamman. May Allah bless them. Ameen.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

MACBAN: MIYETTI ALLAH CATTLE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA.

FAN: FARMERS ASSOCIATION NIGERIAN

CBDA: CHAD BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

LIC: LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT

HIC: HIGH INTENSITY CONFLICT

NGO: NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

LCBC: LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION

ENCOP: ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT PROJECT

IUCNNR: INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATION OF NATURE

AND NATURAL RESOURCES

GDP: GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

GIWA: GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSESSMENT

UNDP: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FACU: FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL COORDINATING UNIT

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### ***1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY***

The Nigerian state is a product of colonization contrived and conceded by the British in 1960. Nigeria is currently having an estimated population of over 154.7 million people (UNDP, 2009). Approximately, 70 - 80 percent of these populations are predominantly farmers leaving in the rural areas (UNDP, 2009).

The re-emergence of democratic rule in 1999 heralded a re-newed conflicts and convulsions, ranging from ethnic crises, religious intolerance, political instability and proliferation of resource conflicts, absence of good governance as well as lack of development. Nation building continued to suffer from strong divisive forces of ethnicity, religion and natural resources conflict, which presupposes the weakening of national cohesion and integration (Maiangwa and Ahmadu, 2007).

Most prominent resource conflicts are the upsurge of hostilities in the oil rich Niger Delta Region in Southern Nigeria, and widespread violence between two dominant production communities (farmers and herders) in Northern part of the country. Farmer-herder conflicts have existed since early beginning of agriculture in Africa (Fratkin, 1997). Nevertheless, its continued manifestation into violence against the backdrop of resource scarcity, increase in the population of resource users, lack of adequate grazing reserves and poor state of the existing ones, unequal resource distribution and the consequent failure of patrimonial states, the region has been susceptible to antecedents of what Robert Kaplan (1994) described as the “coming anarchy”. Farmer-herder conflicts are among the key manifestations of this anarchy and this is linked with the region’s socio-economic and political ecology (Kaplan, 1994; Hussien, 1998; Shettima and Tar, 2008).



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## **INTERVIEWS**

Focus Group Interview with some farmers conducted at Koleram village, Marte Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Focus Group Interview with some herders conducted at Madayi village, Kukawa Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Buba Jauro, male 51years old herder. Interviewed at Doron-Baga village, Kukawa Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Saleh Baban, male 43years old farmer. Interviewed at Koleram village, Marte Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

Bappa Yaya, male, 56years old herder. Interviewed at Kerenewa village, Marte Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Kawu Bello, male 39years old herder. Interviewed at Wulgo village, Ngala Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

Bukar Modu, male 49years old farmer. Interviewed at Malone village, Ngala Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. February 23<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

Dalba Bukar, male, 54years old ward head of Wulari Bohole village. Interviewed at Wulari village, Monguno Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Mohammed Alamin, male, 35years old herder. Interviewed at Monguno village, Monguno Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Ardo Adamu, male, 68years old herder. Interviewed at Damasak village, Mobbar Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Aisami Ali, male, 40years old farmer. Interviewed at Damasak village, Mobbar Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Jamna Bulama, male, 45years old ward head of Bulakumkum village. Interviewed at Bulakumkum village, Mafa Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Humma Bello, male, 64 years old herder. Interviewed at Ngom village, Mafa Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Mai Umar Lawan, male, 80years old village head of Ajiri. Interviewed at Ajiri village, Dikwa Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. April 23<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Dunoma Shettima, male, 50years old farmer. Interviewed at Gulumba village, Dikwa Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Kolo Modu, male, 49years old farmer. Interviewed at Gudumbali village. Guzamala Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

Abatcha Alhaji, male, 38years old chief livestock superintendent. Interviewed at Gajiram village, Nganzai Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Maidugu Hassan, male, 60years old farmer. Interviewed at Tungushe village, Konduga Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria. May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Usman Yusuf, male, 52years old Director of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Borno State, Nigeria. Interviewed at his office. May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Ngulde Safio, male, 50years old Deputy Director of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture, Borno State, Nigeria. Interviewed in his office. May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Kawu Abba Alhaji, male, 85years old former National Chairman, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria. Interviewed in his house. May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Modu Hajiya Falmata, female, 51years old executive member of Farmers Association of Nigeria. Interviewed in her house. May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.