

Effects of Sensitization in Rural Communities on Conflict Resolution between Herdsmen-Crop Farmers in Ogbomoso North Local Government Area

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ABSTRACT

The study evaluated the effects of sensitization in rural community on conflict resolution between herdsmen-crop farmers in Ogbomoso North Local Government Area of Oyo State. Multistage sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The first stage was the simple random selection of four (4) villages. The second stage was the proportionate sampling of 10% of registered farmers and 10% of registered cattle breeders from each village. This gives a total of 55 crop farmers and 45 cattle breeders from the Local Government Area. Thus, a total of 100 respondents were interviewed. Descriptive statistics and Two sample t-test were used to analyze the data.

The mean farm size was 5.6 acres and the mean herd size was 47 ruminant animals. The mean farming experience of the respondents were 19.83 years and 21.82 years for crop farmers and herdsmen respectively. About 91% of crop farmers participate in the sensitization on conflict resolution while 9.05% did not participate. Furthermore, 53.38% of herdsmen participate in the sensitization on conflict resolution while 46.62% did not participate. About 84% of crop farmers resolved conflict while 16.29% did not resolve conflict. Furthermore, 44.50% of herdsmen resolved conflict while 55.50% did not resolve conflict. The mean of conflict resolution for crop farmers Herders was higher for participants than for

the non-participants. The difference was statistically significant at 1 percent level of significance.

It is concluded that both crop farmers and herdsmen who were participants of the sensitization on conflict resolution appreciably resolve conflicts. It is recommended that more sensitization on conflict resolution should be done by government and local communities.

Keywords: Cattle breeders, conflict, crop-farmers, participation and resolution.

I. INTRODUCTION

Conflict between herdsmen and crop farmers in Nigeria is a topical issue. It occurs in virtually all the states of the federation. This situation, has led to the inability of agricultural sector to provide enough food due to the destruction of their farmanimaks and crops during such conflicts. It is also detrimental to social co-existence (Adisa and Adekunle, 2010).

Also, high importation of food into the country is another indicator of food insecurity and the situation if not checked portends a great danger to sustainable development and the co-habitation of the citizens of the country.

The opposing needs from herdsmen and crop farmers are the main cause of those conflicts (Opakleke, 2016). Crop farmers accused the pastoralists of destruction of their crops while the herdsmen accuse the crop farmers of denying them access to grazing

areas (Uhembe, 2015). Conflict is inhibit rural food security livelihoods and social co-existence (Adisa and Adekunle, 2010).

Conflict resolution is the process of resolving a dispute or conflict by meeting at least some of each side's needs and addressing their interest. Community leaders has failed to resolve these conflicts due to their lack of power and knowledge to prevent and adequately respond to violence (Rukuni, et al. 2015). Against this backdrop, there is need to effects of sensitization in rural community on conflict resolution between herdsmen-crop farmers is been studied.

Objectives of the study:

1. identify the personal characteristics of respondents in the study area;
2. determine participation status in the sensitization on conflict resolution between herdsmen and crop farmers in the study area.
3. ascertain conflict resolution status of respondents in the study area.

Hypothesis of the Study:

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between some selected characteristics of participants and non-

participants of sensitization on conflict resolution between herdsmen and crop farmers in the study area.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Ogbomoso North Local Government Area of Oyo State. It is lies approximately on latitude 8°N of the equator and longitude 4°E of the Greenwich meridian. It as population of about 198, 559 (NPC, 2006). The population is projected to be 225, 559 by 2017 with the population growth rate of 3.2%. The headquarters are in the town of Kinnira. The land area is 207978 km². It is bounded by Ogbomoso South, Oriire and Surulere Local Government Areas. The mean monthly temperature is approximately 28°C. Ogbomoso North Local Government Area is in derived savanna climatic zone where agricultural products such as yam, melon, cashew, mango, shea-butter, cocoa, kola nut, palm-oil etc can be found. Most of the inhabitants engaged in farming as their major occupation while some are hunters, traders, fish farmers, etc.



Figure 1: Map of Oyo State

Multistage sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The first stage was the simple random selection of four (4) villages from several villages in Ogbomoso North Local Government Area. Among which were Aare ago, Kinnira, Igbo-nla, Aaje-Ikose, Ikose, Odo-ogun, Yaku, Iluju, Aaje,

Pakiotan and Atako. The second stage was the proportionate sampling of 10% of registered crop farmers and 10% of registered cattle breeders from each village. This gives a total of 55 crop farmers and 45 cattle breeders from the Local Government Area. Thus, a total of 100 respondents were interviewed.

Table 1: Sampling of Respondents

Number	Villages	Registered Herdsmen	Sampled Herdsmen	Registered Crop Farmers	Sampled Crop Farmers	Sampled Respondents
1.	Igbonla	111	11	130	13	24
2.	Yaku	130	13	182	18	31
3.	Are-ago	120	12	121	12	24
4.	Pakiotan	90	9	122	12	21
Total		451	45	555	55	100

Primary data were used in the course of the research. The primary data were collected through the use of structured interview schedule whose content comprised open and closed-ended questions. These were administered to the farmers and cattle breeders. Since most of them are illiterate the interview schedule were interpreted in both the local and Hausa languages.

Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentage, mean and standard deviation were used to measure the socio economic characteristics of the farmers, such as gender, age, marital status e.t.c. Two sample t-test (inferential statistics) was also used for hypothesis testing.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of descriptive analysis for the socio-economic characteristics of crop farmers and herdsmen are presented on Table 2.

Farm Size and Herd Size: The mean farm size was 5.6 acres and the mean herd size was 47 ruminant animals. This was an indication that the farmers were small scale farmers. Agriculture needs to be commercialized on large scale for it to be able to bring about significant improvement to the farmers food security, national economic growth and export earnings.

Farming Experience: The mean farming experience of the respondents were 19.83 years and 21.82 years for crop farmers and herdsmen respectively. This was an indication that the respondents were highly experienced individuals and that the herdsmen were more experienced than the crop farmers. Farming

experience could be useful in the resolution of conflict between the crop farmers and herdsmen.

Farm land Preservation: Most of the crop farmers (32.76%) and herdsmen (75.56%) used guard (watchmen) to preserve their farmland. This method could be too expensive for small holder farmers.

Household Size: The mean household size of the respondents were 6 individuals and 7 individuals for crop farmers and herdsmen respectively. This was an indication that the farmers had large household sizes. Furthermore, the herdsmen had more household size than the crop farmers.

Table 2: Socio-economic Characteristics of Crop Farmers and Herdsmen (Continuation)

Socio-economic Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	Socio-economic Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Crop Farmers			Herdsmen		
Farm size (Acres)			Herd size		
≤ 3	14	25.45	≤ 30	8	17.78
3.01 – 6.00	31	56.37	31 – 50	23	51.11
6.01 – 12.00	6	10.91	51 – 70	13	28.89
> 12.00	4	7.27	> 70	1	2.22
Mean = 5.6			Mean = 47		
Farming experience (Years)			Farming experience (Years)		
≤ 10	10	18.18	≤ 10	8	17.78
10.01 – 20.00	21	38.18	10.01 – 20.00	19	42.22
20.01 – 30.00	22	40	20.01 – 30.00	10	22.22
> 30.00	2	3.64	> 30.00	8	17.78
Mean = 19.83			Mean = 21.82		
Farm land preservation			Farm land preservation		
Nil	14	25.45	Nil	10	22.22
Fencing	164	31.24	Fencing	0	0.00
Guard	172	32.76	Guard	34	75.56
Scare Crow	47	8.96	Scare Crow	0	0.00
Guard and Fence	46	8.76	Guard and Fence	1	2.22

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Table 2: Socio-economic Characteristics of Crop Farmers and Herdsmen (Continuation)

Socio-economic Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	Socio-economic Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Household size			Household size		
≤ 4	4	7.27	≤ 4	4	8.89
5 – 7	46	83.64	5 – 7	20	44.44
> 7	5	9.09	> 7	21	46.67
Mean = 6			Mean = 7		

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Participation status in the sensitization on conflict resolution between herdsmen and crop farmers

Table 3 presented the participation status in the sensitization on conflict resolution between herdsmen and crop farmers. About 91% of crop farmers participate in the sensitization on conflict resolution while 9.05% did not participate.

Furthermore, 53.38% of herdsmen participate in the sensitization on conflict resolution while 46.62% did not participate. The poor participation of herdsmen could be because they always migrate from one place to the other. The low participation of herdsmen could result to high level of intolerance of the herdsmen with their neighbors.

Table 3: Participation status in the sensitization on conflict resolution between herdsmen and crop farmers

Participation Status	Frequency	Percentage	Participation Status	Frequency	Percentage
Crop Farmers			Herdsmen		
Participate	50	90.95	Participate	24	53.38
Not Participate	5	9.05	Not Participate	21	46.62

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Conflict resolution Status of herdsmen and crop farmers

Table 4 presented the conflict resolution status of herdsmen and crop farmers. About 84% of crop farmers resolved conflict while 16.29% did not resolve conflict. Furthermore, 44.50% of herdsmen resolved conflict while 55.50% did not resolve

conflict. The low conflict resolution status of herdsmen could be because they were often isolated, always migrate from one place to the other and their poor attendance in the sensitization on conflict resolution. The low conflict resolution status of herdsmen could fuel the perennial conflict between crop farmers and herders.

Table 4: Conflict resolution Status of herdsmen and crop farmers

Status	Frequency	Percentage	Status	Frequency	Percentage
Crop Farmers			Herdsmen		
Resolved	46	83.71	Resolved	20	44.50
Not Resolved	9	16.29	Not Resolved	25	55.50

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Test of Hypothesis

The null hypothesis stated that there is no significant difference between some selected characteristics of participants and non-participants of sensitization on conflict resolution between herdsmen and crop farmers in the study area. Table 5 presented the difference between some selected characteristics of participants and non-participants of sensitization on conflict resolution between herdsmen and crop farmers. The means of farm size, farming experience and household size of crop farmer was higher for non-participants than for the participants. Their difference is also significant at 1 percent level of significance. However, the mean of conflict resolution for crop farmers was higher for participants than for the non-participants. The

difference was statistically significant at 1 percent level of significance. The means of herder size, farming experience and household size of Herdsmen was higher for non-participants than for the participants. Their difference is also significant at 1 percent level of significance. However, the mean of conflict resolution for Herdsmen was higher for participants than for the non-participants. The difference was statistically significant at 1 percent level of significance.

Therefore, the null hypothesis that stated that there is no significant difference between some selected characteristics of participants and non-participants of sensitization on conflict resolution between herdsmen and crop farmers in the study area was rejected.

Table 5: Difference between some selected characteristics of participants and non-participants of sensitization on conflict resolution between herdsmen and crop farmers

Crop Farmers					Herdsmen				
Characteristics	P	N	Diff.	t-value	Characteristics	P	N	Diff.	t-value
Farm size (acres)	3.79	12.82	-4.61	10.36	Herder-size	31.00	53.19	-22.19	6.20***
Farming experience	14.48	30.00	-15.52	3.97***	Farming experience	8.87	24.19	-15.31	8.93***
Conflict	0.00	0.92	-0.92	-	Conflict	0.83	0	0.83	-

resolution				7.44***	resolution				10.02***
Household size	5.6	8.8	-3.2	6.96***	Household size	5.83	8.71	-2.88	6.83***

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that an appreciable number of herdsman did not participate in the sensitization on conflict resolution. More than half of the herdsman did not resolve conflict. Both crop farmers and herdsman who were participants of the sensitization on conflict resolution appreciably resolve conflicts. It is recommended that sensitization on conflict resolution should migrate with the herdsman in order to encourage them to participate. Both crop farmers and herdsman should be encouraged to resolve all conflict amicably. More sensitization on conflict resolution should be done by government and local communities.

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