



## **DETERRENCE AS VIABLE TOOL FOR MANAGING FARMER-HERDER CONFLICT IN NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA**

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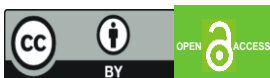
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### **Abstract**

The research is centered on security management strategies and techniques through relevant government institutions, local peace structures in managing the perennial conflict between farmers and herders in North-Central Nigeria. The survey research design was used as Technique. while Multi-stage purposive sampling technique was used to select three (3) States which include Plateau, Benue, and Nasarawa States, out of the six (6) States in North-Central Nigeria. The second stage was the selection of two local governments and political wards in each of the sampled States. The third stage was the selection of 500 participants from the affected communities of farmer-herder conflicting communities, with 495 retrieved and used. Relevant literature and empirical works were reviewed, gaps were identified and adequately filled in an attempt to contribute to the existing knowledge on the subject matter. Deterrence theory was adapted as a framework of analysis. The study findings showed that investigation, prosecution and conviction are veritable instruments of managing farmer-herder conflicts. However, these tools more often than not are confronted with hurdles in their applications towards serving justice to culprits for a crime-free society. These takes the form of parties preferring to settle issues out of court due to poverty, and sometimes advise of the court jurists. waste of time due to legal technicalities, the prosecution takes too long and overwhelming judiciary to effect punishment and management of those awaiting justice, thus, making the tools not viable enough to serve as a deterrent to potential culprits of farmlands and cattle related crimes and criminals in communities within the North-Central States of Nigeria. The study recommended intensified punishment for offenders and overhauled judiciary with established special court to focus on agro-allied matters to speed up justice dispensation.

**Keywords:** Conflict, Deterrence, Farmer, Herder, Management, North–Central Nigeria

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Punishment as deterrence is as old as mankind. In the Old Testament of the Holy Bible, instances abound on how God served justice to human beings and groups whenever they disobeyed his laws. Equally, the applications of punishment cut across the religion-cultural milieus.

Deterrence is at the heart of the preventive aspiration of criminal justice. Deterrence, whether through preventive patrol by Police officers or stiff prison sentences for violent offenders, is the principal mechanism through which the central feature of criminal justice administration and the exercise of state authority work. -When these mechanisms are applied, it is hoped and believed to diminish offenses and enhance public safety (Kennedy, 2012).

It is pertinent to note that, the main objectives of punishment mechanisms are to change the offenders' behaviors and to serve as deterrence to intending offenders and lessons to the offenders through the application of appropriate law enforcement, community support among others. This argument is on the premise that deterrence mechanisms believe that people choose to obey or violate the law after calculating the profit and loss of

their actions based on severity, certainty, celerity, ferocity, and alacrity of punishment to offenders

It is against this backdrop that the study focused on the punishment of offenders through the instrumentality of relevant laws; severity and swiftness of investigations, arrests, detention, and prosecution, and the sentence of culprits by relevant authorities in an attempt to serve as deterrence to potential offenders. This is found to be of help in the management and prevention of the perennial conflicts between farmers and herders in communities in the North-Central States of Nigeria.

Despite farmer-herder disharmony in the North-Central States of Nigeria that has been a matter of security concern to both lives and properties and has to a large extent constituted a regional instability for a very long time, studies conducted by Ibrahim et al. (2018), and Ibrahim and Dabugat (2015) focused on the causes and consequences of farmer-herder conflicts. This study focused on the effect of deterrence mechanisms such as investigation, prosecution, and conviction of offenders. It is imperative to note that, no study under review has focused on enforcement of the extant laws to serve as

deterrence to potential offenders of farmer-herder conflicts in the North-Central region of Nigeria. This aspect of the study emphasizes the need to strengthen penology for effective conflict management in the study area which is silent in many studies under review.

Equally significant is the observation that the scope of previous studies was limited to Plateau and Benue States. Kwaja and Abdul (2015) adopted a community case study approach and was focused on Plateau State. Okoli (2015) did a study on “Pastoral Transhumance and dynamic of social conflicts in Nasarawa State”, none of the previous studies under review looked at the management of farmer-herder conflict with a larger scope of three states in the North-Central region of Nigeria. Therefore, this study is differentiated from previous studies by combining three states which were absent in other studies before it.

Above all, from the numerous studies under review, none of these studies focused on conflict management approaches or strategies in North-Central Nigeria. This study, therefore, seeks to cover these gaps identified in the previous studies in an attempt to strengthen peacebuilding, trust,

confidence, and resilience among farmers and herders through kinetic and non-kinetic management strategies for sustainable peace, harmony, and stability in the North-Central region of Nigeria.

This study investigated the management of farmer-herder conflicts in Plateau and Nasarawa States through the instrumentality of deterrence as veritable tools. The study also covered the period of 2010-2020. In Plateau State; Riyom and BarkinLadi were focused for this study while in Nasarawa State; Awe and Doma LGA were covered. The justification for this selection was due to the persistent conflicts between pastoralists and sedentary farmers in the locals.

## **1. Conceptual Framework**

### **2.1 Conflict**

Conflict thus can be dangerous if not properly managed and at the same time can be an avenue for social integration if properly managed. According to Vaaseh (2013), conflicts can lead to group cohesion and social understandings if properly tackled or managed. A conflict can lead to the use of ammunition, harsh words, disagreement, and separation and end up in violence and war. Generally, conflict is said to emerge whenever two or more versions or groups seek to possess the same object, occupy the

same space of an exclusive portion, play incompatible goals and undertake mutually incompatible means for achieving their purpose (Ker, 2001 in Vaaseh, 2013). From the survival point of view, conflicts occur when one party feels his livelihood is threatened (Kwaja and Adul 2015). Thus, conflict is a byproduct of a survival contest. It is most times associated with means of a better life.

Several scholars have offered different definitions of conflicts. On many fronts, scholars such as Bartos Wehr (2002) viewed conflict as the struggle for status. In another perspective, Mack and Snyder (1973) and Himes (1980) cited in Anthony and Marchant (2014) define conflict as the struggle for scarce resources. The terms of a struggle for scarce resources have been generally seen as a situation in which two or more parties strive to acquire the same scarce resources at the same time.

Wellesteen (2002) defined conflict as a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power, and resources in which the opponents aim to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals. Bartos and Wahr (2002) defined conflict as stemming from the desire to achieve incompatible goals and or to

express their hostilities. It is the pursuit of contrary or seemingly incompatible interests whether between individuals, groups, or countries.

## **2.2 Community Policing as a Veritable Tool to Conflict Management**

It is a known fact, the Nigerian Police Force (NFP) is overwhelmed and characterized by inadequate manpower, inadequate funding, poor crimes, and operational information management, poor remunerations and poor conditions of service, poor resource management, inadequate logistics, poor residential accommodation, indiscipline among others. These are the challenges confronting the efficacy of NPF today and fueling the need to have trustworthy community policing to supplement the gross inefficiency of the Security Development.

In a similar view, one of the advocates of state police is the former Governor of Lagos State, Babatunde Fashola. He argued that “every state that has the power and can give judgments through its state high courts and magistrate and make laws through its state assemblies and legislators must have the concomitant powers to enforce its law and police its state (Onwuzuligbo, 2012 cited in

Aleyomi, 2013). Thus, federalism is not complete without the existence of state police. For instance, the American federal system has the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), state police establishments and parks have their police outfits. A critical analysis of the constitutional provisions mentioned in this point reveals that each of the states constituting Nigeria is meant to be a complete government on its own with powers to make laws, enforce them and punish offenders through the judicial arm. Yet under the Nigerian legal system, the only institution saddled with the responsibility of enforcing the law is the Nigeria Police Force, a federal agency (Aleyomi, 2013).

Even local governments should be allowed to have local police, but what needs to be done is to review our criminal laws to differentiate between state crimes and federal crimes, so that each level of community Police, State Police, and Federal Police should have their jurisdiction. It is believed that the large percentage of security issues begins with the community, if you make communities secure, you are less likely to have crime at state and federal levels. It is therefore the authors' opinion

that in a federal system, we must disaggregate some functions to state because most security challenges are local issues and they are best addressed locally (El-Rufai, 2014).

The fact that section 215(4) empowers the governors to give lawful directives to the state Commissioner of Police (CP) which they comply with or causes them to be complied with, has not in any way enhanced the authority of the Governor because the CP can request the matter to be referred to the President, or the Minister of Police Affairs/Interior irrespective of the urgency. In any case, the CP has the legal issue of lawfulness to play around with, if there is a similar motive. It may not be preposterous or stretching the imagination too far, but rather, stating the obvious that a CP or Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) of a zone can intentionally refuse to carry out the instruction from the Governor because he is not answerable to him as section 214(1) without equivocation makes the management and control of the existing police organization in Nigeria an exclusive preserve of the Federal Government, hence, the inclusion of the police and other security services establishment law in the Executive Legislative List, as could be seen in item 45,

part 1 to the second schedule of the 1999 constitution as amended of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Egunjobi, 2016).

The same section 215 Sub-section (4) states that; *“Subject to the provisions of this section, the Governor of a state or such commissioner of the Government of the state as he may authorize in that behalf, may give to the commissioner of police of that state such lawful directions concerning the maintenance and securing of public safety and public order within the state as he may consider necessary, and the commissioner of police shall comply with those directions or cause them to be complied with provided that before carrying out any such directions under the foregoing provisions of this subsection the commissioner of police may request that the matter be referred to the president or such Minister of the Government of the Federation as may be authorized in that behalf by the president for his directions”*. This argument about the abuse of office by sitting Governors is valid and very common in the Nigerian political space. In the case of the Executive Governor of Kaduna State Nasiru el-Rufai with the Senator representing Kaduna North, Senator Suleiman Hunkuyi, the political rift led to the demolishing of his house which was

converted as the faction office was outrightly demolished largely on political grounds while the case of the Executive Governor of Kano State, Alhaji Umar Ganduje and Senator Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, representing Kano Central was another tug of war which led to denial to visit his state, largely influenced by political reasons.

It is against this background that Senator Shehu Sani (2018), says, “I’m against State Police even if the president, the vice president, the State Governors, and senators are for it. The tyranny, the abuse of power, and the violence that they will state sponsor and sanction will be unleashed (escalate) unimaginable. State police will only enable state Governors to give uniforms and arms to political thugs, criminal gangs, ethnic militia, cultists, secessionists, and religious fanatics. Multiplicity and duplication of armed personnel will not address the security challenges in the country”.

Similarly, Jibrin (2018), states that; *“State police would be established by state Houses of Assembly and that means the enabling laws defining their mandates, structure, and control would be determined by State Governors because as we all know, state Houses of Assembly are essentially puppets*



*of their governors and they do as they are instructed. For State Governors, the bad boys are clear and fall into two categories. The first category is composed of politicians who want to contest state power with the governors or their chosen successors for those in their second term. The second category consists of all persons who dare to criticize the governors or question their misdeeds. Currently, many critics including journalists and civil society activists are in arbitrary detention for daring to speak the truth about governors. The governors cajole law enforcement officers to “deal” with their perceived enemies without having a police force totally under their control. I am convinced that most (if not all) governors would feel all their “enemies” if they have police forces they totally control”.*

### **2.3 Theoretical framework - Deterrence (Penology) Theory**

Deterrence theory was propounded by Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham in the 18<sup>th</sup> century based on explaining crime and a method for reducing it (Beccaria, 1963). Wright (2010) argued that crime was not only an attack on an individual but the society as well. To this end, the purpose of punishment becomes the protection of society through the prevention of crime. Thus, in broad terms,

punishment may be expected to affect deterrence in one of the two forms. First, by increasing the curtaining of punishment, potential offenders may be deterred by the risk of apprehension.

This theory has its root in sociology and criminology. The theory deals with prison management and treatment of offenders. Deterrence concerning criminal offending is the theory that the risk or consequences of punishment will deter people from committing a crime and reduce the degree of offending in society. Deterrence is one of the five objectives that punishment is the sort to achieve, the other four objectives are denunciation, incapacitation (for the interest of society or national interest) retribution, and rehabilitation.

Deterrence theory has two major applications, the first is that punishments imposed on individual offenders will deter or prevent the particular offender from committing further crimes; the second is that public knowledge that certain offenders will be punished has a generalized deterrent consequence and effect which prevent others from committing crimes.

## **2. Methodology**

## **Research Design**

The study adopted the survey design and expo factor. The method enabled the researcher to study a group of people in the population by collecting and analyzing data from only a few people that are considered to be true representatives of the entire group (population) and also analyze existing documented secondary data.

## **Population, Sample, and Sampling Techniques**

Fieldwork was carried out in the selected states and local government areas; selection was largely based on these areas of persistent farmer-herder conflicts with fragile security management structures and strategies. The target population for this study consisted of 500 participants from a Community Based Organization from each of the selected States/Local Government Areas known as Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD) established by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) an NGO mediating between farmers and herders in Nigeria. The CSAD comprises representatives of farmers, herders, religious and traditional rulers, Local Government Chairmen, Women leaders, Youth leaders, vigilante groups, and Government security officials (Operation Safe Havens, Operation Rainbow, Police,

and NSCDC) among others. Thus, 500 Questionnaires were administered to the said participants in the two states and 6 LGAs under study. Purposive sampling technique to gather vital data from the participants for this research in an attempt to proffer a lasting solution to the farmer-herder. The method helped the researcher to identify the target population and volatile areas where information of the subject is available. The technique was harnessed based on firsthand knowledge, participants' knowledge, and the experience and the willingness to share information. The Communities under study include; Riyom and BarkinLadi (Plateau), Awe and Doma (Nasarawa), and Agatu and Guma(Benue).The reason for the choice of these local Governmentsand States is because of the prevalence of farmer-herder clashes in those areas.

## **Techniques for Data Analysis**

The responses from the questionnaires were analyzed using simple percentage, logistic regression, correlation, and Fisher's Extract Test was used to test the hypotheses generated in the course of the study.

## **Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

This section presents socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents in the study



area which includes gender, age, education qualification, marital status, and occupation.

**Table 1: Socio-economic and Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

Variables	General Respondents	Security personnel	Total
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	294 (65.4)	34 (75.6)	328 (66.3)
Female	155 (34.6)	11 (24.4)	167 (33.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>450 100.0)</b>	<b>45 100.0)</b>	<b>495 100.0)</b>
<b>Age</b>			
18-28 years	53 (11.7)	02 (4.4)	55 (11.1)
29 - 39 years	169 (37.6)	26 (57.8)	195 (39.5)
40 - 50 years	153 (34.0)	17 (37.8)	170 (34.3)
51 and above	75 (16.7)	0 (0.0)	75 (15.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>450 100.0)</b>	<b>45 100.0)</b>	<b>495 100.0)</b>
<b>Educational Qualification</b>			
B.Sc./HND	86 (19.1)	11 (24.4)	97 (19.6)
NCE/Diploma	70 (15.6)	17 (37.8)	87 (17.6)
SSCE	126 (28.0)	17 (37.8)	143 (28.9)
Primary	123 (27.3)	0 (0.0)	123 (24.8)
Vocational	41 (9.1)	0 (0.0)	41 (8.3)
No response	04 (0.9)	0 (0.0)	04 (0.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>450 100.0)</b>	<b>45 100.0)</b>	<b>495 100.0)</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Single	101 (22.4)	32 (71.1)	133 (26.9)
Married	214 (47.6)	12 (26.7)	226 (45.7)
Separated/Divorced	2 (0.4)	0 (0.0)	02 (0.4)
Widow/Widower	133 (29.6)	01 (2.2)	134 (27.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>450 100.0)</b>	<b>45 100.0)</b>	<b>495 100.0)</b>
<b>Occupation</b>			
Crop Farmer	156 (34.7)	0 (0.0)	156 (31.5)
Herdsman	150 (33.3)	0 (0.0)	150 (30.3)
Agro-Herder	85 (18.9)	0 (0.0)	85 (17.2)
Business	14 (3.1)	0 (0.0)	14 (2.8)
Civil Servant	45 (10.0)	0 (0.0)	45 (9.1)
Nigeria Police Force	0 (0.0)	25 (55.6)	25 (5.1)
NSCDC	0 (0.0)	20 (44.4)	20 (4.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>450 (100.0)</b>	<b>45 100.0)</b>	<b>495 100.0)</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, on gender distribution, findings revealed that (65.4% and 75.6%) of the general respondents and security personnel are male while females represent (34.6% and 24.4%) respectively. This indicates that a large proportion of respondents (66.3%) are male while the remaining (33.7%) are females. The difference in gender participation is due to less participation and involvement of women in issues that concern them directly. As clearly observed the subject of women's underrepresentation in the core activities and matters in the society especially in this segment of the country cannot be overruled. Therefore, it is the males that are most readily available for this survey; the females are visible but mostly unavailable. Furthermore, on age distribution, the table reveals that most respondents from the total population sampled with (39.5%) are within the age of 29-39 years while respondents between the ages of 18-28 years represent the fewest categories with (11.1%). On respondents' educational

qualification, the majority of the total sampled respondents (28.9%) had undergone NCE/diploma program with informal education while few with (8.3%) had only undergone vocational school except for (0.8%) who did not indicate their educational qualification.

The result of marital status shows that a significant proportion of the total respondents representing (45.7%) are widows/widowers, while (45.7%) of the total respondents are married. This shows that both widow/widower and married persons are captured as main respondents. Also, this implied that a high proportion of respondents had family responsibilities and would likely use land more intensely. Analysis of occupation of respondents varies sharply in percentage. Results show that the majority of the total respondents representing 61.8% are farmers; 31.5% are crop farmers with a significant proportion of herdsmen (30.3%) and few (2.8%) businessmen and women. This shows that both interested parties of the conflict are captured in the survey.

**Table 2: Relationship between Justice Delivery and Community Peace Structure**

Opinions	Observed frequency	Expected frequency	df	Level of sig	$\chi^2$ -cal	$\chi^2$ -tab	P-Value	Decision
Community Peace Structure	450	100	1	0.05	83.300 <sup>a</sup>	10.088	0.000	Significant
Justice Delivery	450	100						

**Source:** Field Survey, 2020

To understand the relationship between justice delivery and community peace structure, a Chi-square test was conducted as shown in table 6 above,  $\chi^2$  cal. = 83.300<sup>a</sup> > 10.088;  $P < .05$  with 1 degree of freedom. This means that Justice Delivery and Community resolving farmer-herder-related conflicts at the community level.

Peace Structure have a significant relationship in North-Central Nigeria. This means that the respondents are satisfied with justice delivery at the community level. This can be the reason respondents prefer

**Table 3: General Respondents' view on reporting Conflict Incidences to Security Personnel by their Occupation.**

<i>General Respondents Conflict Reporting by their Occupation</i>		<i>Reporting Conflict</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	
<i>Occupation</i>	Crop Farmers	156	0	156
		100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Herdsman	9	141	150
		6.0%	94.0%	100.0%
	Agro-herders	0	85	85
		4.0%	96.0%	100.0%
	Business	0	14	14
		0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Civil servants	0	45	45
		0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Total</b>		<b>165</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>450</b>
		<b>36.7%</b>	<b>63.3%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2020

Table 3, represents a cross-tabulation of general respondents reporting conflict incidences to security personnel by their occupation. Data shows that crop farmers mostly report conflict incidence to security personnel. In contrast, most civil servants

(100.0%); Businessmen/women (100.0%), and Agro-herders (96.0%) do not report conflict incidence; only a few of herdsman (6.0%) usually report conflict incidence to security personnel.

**Table 4: Security personnel response on whether they received community support during investigations.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	26	57.8
No	19	42.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 4 presents security personnel's response on whether they received community support during the investigation.

Data shows that 57.8% of suspects' investigations were supported by the community while 42.2% were not supported by the community members. This indicates

that the level of community and security relations in North-Central Nigeria most especially during investigations is not very

high or cordial enough, thus, it affects the level of conflict management of farmers–herder conflicts in the study areas.

**Table 5: Logistic Regression Results with Investigations Preventing Farmer-Herder Conflict in North- Central Nigeria**

							95% C.I. for		
							Exp.	EXP(B)	
Variable		B	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig.	(B)	Lower	Upper
Step	Arrest	-.834	.451	3.418	1	.064	.434	.179	1.051
	1 <sup>a</sup> Constant	-2.251	.372	36.685	1	.000	.105		

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

In table 5, a logistic regression analysis was conducted to examine the effect of investigation on farmer-herder conflicts in Central Nigeria. The predictor variable investigations were tested before verifying there was no violation of the assumption of the linearity of the logit regression. The predictor variable, investigation in the analysis was found not contributing to the model. The unstandardized Beta weight for

the constant;  $B = (-2.251)$ ,  $SE = 0.372$ ,  $Wald = 36.685$ ,  $p < .001$ . The unstandardized Beta weight for the predictor variable:  $B = (-0.834)$ ,  $SE = 0.451$ ,  $Wald = 3.418$ ,  $p > .001$ . The estimated odds ratio indicates an increase of 43% [ $Exp. (B) = 0.434$ , 95% of CI (0.179, 1.051)] for decrease of farmer-herder conflicts for every one-unit increase of investigations.

**Table 6: Respondents view on whether offenders prefer proceeding to court after detention**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	57	11.5
No	438	88.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

The table presents respondents' views on whether suspects prefer proceeding to court after detention. The response shows that most of the suspects that are arrested and detained with (88.5%) preferred settlement and negotiation at Police stations against (11.5%) of those who desired to proceed to courts. This is why a significant percentage of the cases of farmer-herders are settled at the Police stations or local tribunal by the communities. This also speeds justice and saves clients from the sluggish pace of courts'

overwhelming situation and vigorous technicalities. Further investigation suggested that the delay in the justice system is because of requirements to present evidence and witnesses which often time takes a long time to establish before the judges. Additionally, some lawyers do not help matters, where they lack enough to prove, they most times request for an adjournment to enable them to put their home in order.

### **The Extent of Prosecution in Mitigating Farmer-Herder Conflict in Central Nigeria**

**Table 7: General Respondents Awareness of Prosecution.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	276	61.3
No	174	38.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 7 presents general respondents' views on their awareness of prosecution involving anyone engaged in reckless grazing, cattle rustling, and other related offenses. The data above shows that 61.3% of the respondents are aware while 38.7% are not aware.

In contrast, data collected from Nigeria Police State Command and Ministry of Justice in Benue, Nasarawa, and the Plateau States indicates that about 71.3% of suspects

of farmer-herder conflicts are prosecuted; this shows a difference of 10.0% from the current findings. It can be concluded that there is a decrease of 10.0% in a prosecution involving anyone engaged in reckless grazing, cattle rustling, and other related offenses. This decrease can also affect the positive impact of security management in Central Nigeria.



**Table 9: Security Personnel Responses on the Existence of Exceptional Cases that Demand Prosecution.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	45	100.0
No	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 9 presents security personnel responses on the existence of exceptional cases that demand prosecution. Findings indicate that all the respondents representing 100.0% reveal that exceptional cases that demand prosecution among farmers and herders exist.

Although table 5 indicated that 85.5% of the respondents prefer solving the issues at the community level. However, this finding shows that for effective management of the conflicts, some of those cases are not exceptional to prosecution.

**Table 10: General Respondents View on Whether Justice is delivered at the Right Time**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	100	22.2
No	350	77.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 10 presents general respondents' views on whether justice is delivered at the right time during prosecution. The data in Table 10 shows that although delivery of justice exists representing 22.2% the delay in justice

delivery is higher (77.8%). This implies that the wheel of justice turns so slowly in such a way that it doesn't reflect the urgency it requires in the interest of peace and stability in the region.

**Table 11: Logistic Regression Results with Delay in Justice Delivery Predicting Preference to Proceed to Court after Detention**

Variable		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp. (B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
								Lower	Upper
Step 1 <sup>a</sup>	Justice delay	-3.446	.378	83.054	1	.000	.032	.015	.067
	Constant	3.526	.321	120.799	1	.000	34.000		

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

In table 11, a logistic regression analysis was conducted to investigate the effect of delay in justice delivery on preference to proceed to court after detention in the study area. The predictor variable delay in justice delivery was tested before verifying there was no violation of the assumption of the linearity of the logit regression. The predictor variable, delay in justice delivery in the analysis was found to contribute to the model. The

unstandardized Beta weight for the constant;  $B = (3.526)$ ,  $SE = 0.321$ ,  $Wald = 120.799$ ,  $p < .001$ . The unstandardized Beta weight for the predictor variable:  $B = (-3.446)$ ,  $SE = 0.378$ ,  $Wald = 80.054$ ,  $p < .001$ . The estimated odds ratio indicates a decrease of 32% [ $Exp. (B) = 0.32$ , 95% of CI (0.015, 0.067)] on preference to proceed to court after detention for every one-unit increase of delay in justice delivery.

**Table 12: General Respondents View on whether there are Abandonment or Withdrawal of Cases**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	309	68.7
No	141	31.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 12 presents general respondents' views on whether there is abandonment or withdrawal of cases. Findings of this table with (68.7%) show that there is abandonment and withdrawal while 31.3% of responses indicate there is no abandonment or withdrawal of cases in the study area. We

can conclude with the majority view, that there are lots of abandonment and withdrawal of cases during prosecution in the study area. This could be due to the interventions of the traditional and religious leaders via CSAD and other related NGOs /CSOs formation in the region.

**Table 13: Logistic Regression Results with Justice Delivery Predicting Abandonment and Withdrawal of Cases**

Variable		B	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp. (B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
								Lower	Upper
Step 1 <sup>a</sup>	Justice delay	-1.696	.351	23.321	1	.000	.184	.092	.365
	Constant	-.502	.110	20.694	1	.000	.606		

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

In table 13, a logistic regression analysis was conducted to investigate the effect of delay in justice delivery on the abandonment and withdrawal of cases in the study area. The predictor variable delay in justice delivery was tested before verifying there was no violation of the assumption of the linearity of the logit regression. The predictor variable, delay in justice delivery in the analysis was found to contribute to the model. The unstandardized Beta weight for the constant;

$B = (-0.502)$ ,  $SE = 0.110$ ,  $Wald = 20.694$ ,  $p < .001$ . The unstandardized Beta weight for the predictor variable:  $B = (-1.696)$ ,  $SE = 0.351$ ,  $Wald = 23.31$ ,  $p < .001$ . The estimated odds ratio indicates a change of 18% [Exp. (B) = 0.184, 95% of CI (0.092, 0.365)] for abandonment and withdrawal of cases for every one-unit increase of delay in justice delivery.

**Table 14: General Respondents View on Whether Lack of Money Restrict seeking Justice**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	306	68.0
No	144	32.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 14 presents general respondents' view on whether the lack of money to hire lawyers affects their intention to advance their cases. Most of the responses with 68.0% indicated

that lack of money to hire lawyers restricts the advancements of cases, only a few with 32.0% indicates that lack of money to hire lawyers does not restrict the advancement of

cases. The findings showed that there is no efficient legal aid counsel to assist during

farmer-herder conflicts litigation in the study area.

**Table 14: Satisfaction with Prosecution in Communities within the North-Central States of Nigeria.**

Response	General Respondents	Security Personnel	Total (%)
Very unsatisfied	89 (19.8)	5 (11.1)	94 (18.9)
Unsatisfied	206 (45.8)	20 (44.5)	226 (45.7)
Neutral	47 (10.4)	5 (11.1)	52 (10.5)
Satisfied	67 (14.9)	13 (28.9)	80 (16.2)
Very satisfied	41 (9.1)	2 (4.4)	43 (8.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>450 (100.0)</b>	<b>45 (100.0)</b>	<b>495 (100.0)</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 14 indicates respondents' satisfaction with prosecution in the study area, (18.9%) of the total sample are very unsatisfied with the prosecution, (45.7%) are unsatisfied, (10.5%) neutralized their views, (16.2%) are satisfied,

while (8.7%) are very satisfied with the prosecution. The findings show that most of the respondents are unsatisfied with prosecution proceedings in the study areas.

**Table 15: General Respondents View on Whether Confrontation Exist after Unsatisfied Judgments**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	324	72.0
No	126	28.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 15 presents general respondents' views on whether those who are not satisfied with judgment generate fresh conflict when encountered with the other party. The table indicates that 72.0% of those who are not

satisfied with judgment generated fresh conflicts when encountered with the other party, while 28.0% did not generate fresh conflict.

### The Effect of Conviction of Farmers-Herders Offenders in Relieving the Conflict Situations in Central Nigeria.

**Table 16: Satisfaction with Conviction**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very unsatisfied	20	4.4
Unsatisfied	56	12.5
Neutral	13	2.9
Satisfied	265	58.9
Very satisfied	96	21.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 16 indicates general respondents' satisfaction with conviction in the study area. (4.4%) of the respondents indicate that they are very unsatisfied with the conviction process, (12.5%) are unsatisfied, (2.9%) neutralized their views, (58.9%) are satisfied, while (21.3%) are very satisfied with the prosecution. The findings showed that most of the respondents are satisfied with the conviction process in the study area. Thus, it

is inferred that conviction can be effective in managing conflict in the study area.

Previous data collected from Nigeria Police State Command and Ministry of Justice in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau State shows satisfaction on conviction around 7.0%, this increased with about 51.9% differences. Thus, it can be deduced that satisfaction with convictions is higher, hence conviction should be taken as an effective tool in managing security in Central Nigeria.

**Table 17: Whether Conviction Helps in Mitigating the Conflict.**

Response	General Respondents	Security Personnel	Total (%)
Yes	305 (67.8)	34 (75.6)	339 (68.5)
No	145 (32.2)	11 (24.4)	156 (31.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>450 (100.0)</b>	<b>45 (100.0)</b>	<b>495 (100.0)</b>

**Source:** (Field Survey, 2020)

Table 17 presents respondents' views on whether a conviction can help in mitigating the conflict of farmer-herders conflict in the North-Central region of Nigeria. Both of the

two sampled respondents agreed that convictions aid in conflict management with 67.8% and 75.6% respectively while those that do not agree represent 32.2% and 24.4%

respectively. It can be concluded that conviction is essential for effective security management in North- Central Nigeria.

**Test of Hypotheses On** There is no significant relationship between

investigation and unveiling of farmer-herder offenders in North-Central Nigeria

**Table 18: Fisher's Exact Test of Observed and Expected Frequencies**

Conflict	Prosecution		OR	P
	Yes	No		
Increase	255[199.61]	103[125.84]	8.33	< .001
Decrease	21[51.30]	71[32.34]		

*Note.* Values formatted as Observed [Expected].

A Fisher's exact test was conducted to examine the relationship between prosecution and increasing conflicts of farmer-herder conflicts in North-Central Nigeria. The result of the Fisher exact test is significantly based on an alpha value of 0.05,  $p < .001$ , suggesting that prosecution and increase in conflicts of farmer-herder conflicts are related to one another. Since Fisher's exact test was conducted for a 2x2 contingency table, the odds ratio was calculated OR = 8.33. This indicates that the odds of observing the prosecution and

increasing categories is 8.33 times as likely as observing no prosecution and increasing categories. This finding rejects the claim that there is no significant relationship between prosecution and increasing conflicts of farmer-herder conflicts in North-Central Nigeria.

### Hypothesis Two

H0<sub>5</sub>: There is no significant relationship between conviction and lasting solution to farmer-herder conflicts in North-Central Nigeria.

**Table 19: Fisher's Exact Test of Observed and Expected Frequencies**

Conviction as a lasting solution	Conviction		OR	p
	Yes	No		
Yes	255[199.61]	103[125.84]	8.33	< .001
No	21[51.30]	71[32.34]		

*Note.* Values formatted as Observed [Expected].



A Fisher's exact test was conducted to examine the relationship between conviction and lasting solution to the farmer-herder conflict in North-Central Nigeria. The result of Fisher's exact test is significantly based on an alpha value of 0.05,  $p < .001$ , suggesting that conviction and lasting solution to farmer-herder conflicts are related to one another. This finding rejects the claim that there is no significant relationship between conviction and lasting solution to the farmers-herders conflict in North-Central Nigeria.

### Hypothesis Three

There is no significant relationship between conviction and a lasting solution to farmer-herder conflicts in North-Central Nigeria.

1. H0<sub>5</sub>: There is no significant relationship between conviction and lasting solution to farmer-herder conflicts in North-Central Nigeria.

**2. Table 34: Fisher's Exact Test of Observed and Expected Frequencies**

Conviction as a lasting solution	Conviction		OR	<i>p</i>
	Yes	No		
Yes	255[199.61]	103[125.84]	8.33	< .001
No	21[51.30]	71[32.34]		

3. *Note.* Values formatted as Observed [Expected].
4. A Fisher's exact test was conducted to examine the relationship between conviction and lasting solution to the farmer-herder conflict in North-Central Nigeria. The result of Fisher's exact test is significantly based on an alpha value of 0.05,  $p < .001$ ,

suggesting that conviction and lasting solution to farmer-herder conflicts are related to one another. This finding rejects the claim that there is no significant relationship between conviction and lasting solution to the farmers-herders conflict in North-Central Nigeria.

## **Findings**

In terms of prosecution, offending parties prefer settling issues out of court due to time factors, economic reasons, economic activities, and the intervention of community and religious leaders under the leadership of CSAD. It was observed that the administration of criminal justice operates at a pace that does not reflect the fragility of the situation and the urgency to demonstrate justice to whoever deserves it. The slow justice system is partly the reason people settle scores out of court when they cannot retrieve their rights that have been trampled upon. This gives credence to the fact that the Nigerian justice system is overstretched or overwhelmed.

Prosecution takes so long that many offended parties assume that the offender has long been released without serving justice, this encourages violent conduct (reprisal) and raising illegal self-help in North-Central Nigeria. These findings also aligned with the discovery of Jumare&Surma (2015) where it was found that failure to punish offenders on time breeds continuous crime and a circle of conflicts.

Sound Prison System and Administration (penology) is not effective enough. This was

observed during the attempt to study the treatment of offenders in the correctional centers across the study area. It was found that many were awaiting justice for too long without conviction in terms of the prison sentence. These findings corroborated the study conducted by Jumare and Surma (2015) where findings revealed that failure to serve justice to perpetrators of offenders of farmland trespass and cattle rustling among other related crimes fueled conflicts among herders and the host communities in Kaduna State.

## **Conclusion**

The main crux of this study lays in the fact that deterrence is a veritable tool in managing farmer-herder conflict in North-Central Nigeria. This lays on the fact that, if offenders are properly and timely punished for their offenses, it would serve as a warning to potential offenders and also serve as a lesson to the culprits. This line of action should be sustained. It could be seen from the study that traditional and religious leaders have huge roles to play in sustaining peace and tranquility in their societies through the instrumentality of Local Peace Structures and other related grassroots organizations. These structures are all geared towards providing justice, equity, and fair play in conflicts

between farmers and herders in North-Central Nigeria. There are a couple of impediments confronting the quick dispensation of justice, and also miscarriage of justice; the study discovered that such a challenge generates fresh conflicts among aggrieved parties. To corroborate these claims, the study found that the majority of the respondents were not satisfied with the deterrence measures from the criminal justice system. It is in line with this; the study provided policy recommendations to entrench the culture of punishment or deterrent to offenders inline the local or government constituted authorities; to surmount the hurdles that served as a cog in the wheel of justice to whoever deserved to be served in the interest of justice, peace, and development among farmers and herders in North-Central Nigeria and the country at large.

### **Recommendations**

1. There should be stiffer punishment of offenders for deliberate violations of laws regarding agricultural activities such as farming and rearing livestock. To this end, penology (treatment of offenders) should be enhanced in line with extant laws guiding protections of lives and property in society.
2. There is a need for the government at all levels to overhaul the judiciary towards speedy justice dispensation of farmer-herder conflicts. To this effect, the government should establish a special court mainly to address agro-allied matters. These would speed up the dispensation of justice and restore hope and fasten social justice age-long cohabitation and cohesion among the locals who see prolonged litigation as a ploy to divert justice.
3. Governments at all levels should endeavor to collaborate with CSOs on the need to reach out to the locals towards free legal service, sensitization, and awareness on legal matters. This would go a long way in addressing salient but critical issues associated with ignorance of court procedures, seeking self-help by way of reprisal attacks among others.
4. Government should overhaul the correctional services system and administration to serve the purpose in which it was established towards correcting the ill-behaved people that were served justice by the relevant court of justice.

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