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PASTORALIST READINESS TO USE THE PROPOSED RURAL GRAZING AREA (RUGA) SETTLEMENT IN GOMBE STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study assessed pastoralists' readiness to use the proposed Ruga settlement in Gombe state. The research had three specific objectives, three research question and three hypotheses. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The study was having an infinite population. The sample of the study comprises of 384 transhumant and nomadic pastoralists randomly selected from the study area. A 30 items structured questionnaire was used for data collection, the instrument pastoralists' readiness was validated by expert with reliability coefficient of .762. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer research questions and independent t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significant. The findings also revealed that, transhumance and nomadic pastoralists are ready to use the proposed Ruga settlement based on their level of awareness and socio-economic characteristics in Gombe State, Nigeria. Based on the finding, the study, recommended that, more enlightenment on the merits of Ruga settlement and the need to create a platform that will bring all stakeholders together on regular basis by the Government and other agencies should be reiterated.

Key words: Pastoralists, Readiness, Ruga settlement, Transhumance, Nomadic.

Introduction

Over the years, the Nigerian government is confronted with issues of how to permanently solve the lingering Fulani Pastoralists conflicts. According to Ademola (2020), these conflicts are mainly attributable to resource control and

divergent value systems in the country. The movement of pastoralist from one area of the country to another is usually caused by the increasing demand for fresh grazing grounds especially during draught period, when the pastoralists move southwards because of the Availability of pasture. In the same vein, Emmanuel (2020) stated that, pastoralists do encounter problems with the local people because farmers' crops were being destroyed by their Cattle. Emmanuel lamented that, to find a solution to that, the federal government proposed the Rural grazing areas (RUGA) Settlement plan dated June 25th, 2019 as a means to address the restiveness. Okoro (2019) asserted that, this has became a settlement plan where animals and herders will be settled in an organised place. According to Okoro, the scheme was to curb the persistent conflicts between farmers and herders over property rights and natural resource exploration in Nigeria.

On his own part, Chikwe (2020) stated that, Rural grazing area (RUGA) or cattle colony is a settlement for both transhumant and nomadic pastoralists with their families and livestock. Chikwe added that, it contains ranches, grass or feed farms, abattoirs, dairy, meat and skin/leather processing plants, housing, religious houses, schools, roads, power and water supplies and the complete range of infrastructure required to support and sustain an ultra-modern local government area. Grazing Reserves in Nigeria are areas set aside for the use of pastoralists and are intended to be the backbone of livestock development. Chikwe (2020) continued that, the stated purpose of Grazing policy encompasses the establishment of ranches but in gazette grazing reserves. The plan also seeks to acquire 15000 hectares of land in each state of the federation for the implementation of the policy; each state is expected to co-fund the Ruga project. It is important to note that 90% of cattle by-products come from pastoralists (herdsmen) and contribute between 6% to 7% of GDP (Muhammed,2016). Ruga Settlement seeks to settle transhumant and nomadic Pastoral families in an organized place with provision of necessary and adequate basic amenities such as schools, hospitals, road networks, vet clinics, markets and manufacturing entities that will process and add value to meats and animal products (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2019)

Despite the importance of this Ruga policy, it was opposed by cultural organizations notably Ohanaze and Afenifere and also by some state governments including Benue and Osun states (Charles, 2019). Charles explained that, most people see Ruga idea as a measure in ethnic domination and conquest to create new territory for fulani people all over the nation. According to Oyetade (2017), for rejection reasons stated by Charles (2019), accessing water and grazing land has become more competitive and has led to crop farmers and pastoralists into arguments on a regular basis. This is worrisome trend because both have coexisted inter-dependently for centuries, sharing the same fields for farming and grazing with a manageable level of tolerance and accommodation. It is based on the criticisms and opposition against the Ruga policy that this Researcher is prompted to investigate the readiness of pastoralists to use rural grazing area (RUGA) in Gombe State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the Readiness of Pastoralists on the proposed establishment of rural grazing area in Gombe state. Specifically the study will;

1. Determine the socio-economic factors influencing pastoralist to adopt Ruga in Gombe state.
2. Determine the level of awareness among pastoralists regarding rural grazing area (RUGA) in Gombe state
3. To determine the extent of pastoralists readiness to use Ruga settlement in Gombe state.

Research questions

1. What is the Socio-economic factors influencing Pastoralist to adopt Ruga settlement in Gombe state?
2. What is the pastoralists' level of awareness about Ruga settlement in Gombe state?
3. What is the extent of Pastoralists readiness to use Ruga settlement in Gombe state?

Research Hypotheses

- There is no significant difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists socio- economic characteristics in Gombe State.
- There is no significant difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists level of awareness about Ruga settlement in Gombe state
- There is no significant difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists view on the readiness to use Ruga settlement in Gombe state.

Literature Review

Ruga Settlement

Ruga settlements or Fulani settlements plan in Nigeria known as cattle ranching is not new, it is an old wine in a new bottle. This is because the idea of Ruga settlements is traceable to first republic immediately after the independence in 1960 by the Former government of the Northern Nigeria. To be precise, Northern Region of Nigeria passed Grazing Reserves Law in 1965. The law stipulates that minimum of 10% of the country's land area to be legally acquired and constituted into grazing reserves for lease allocation to grazers (Muhammed, 2016). Ruga settlements means allowing herdsmen to settle down permanently in a particular area to prevent open grazing or roaming about with cattle that may cause farmers/herdsmen clashes. The reasons for Ruga settlements initiatives among others are to address the issue of insecurity; provide quality of meat and milk production for healthier nourishment; provide former education to children of nomads; provide employment opportunities to citizens; attract investments opportunities to the country and generate revenue for the nation. It is important to note that 90% of our cattle and by-products comes from pastoralists (herdsmen) and contributes between 6% and 7% to GDP. Agriculture overall contributes up to 23% to the national GDP (Muhammed, 2016). Historically and up till first republic era of 1965 in Nigeria, farmers (agriculturalists) and herders (pastoralists) enjoyed a fairly symbiotic relationship. Farmers provide grain and other farm products for herders' livestock. Herders' livestock provided farmers with manure to fertilize their firm lands.

This is because farmers engage in crops farming and herders engage in animal husbandry with little or no clashes. At these periods, the population of Nigeria was small and number of people that were involved in the farming activities for consumption and business purposes were also small. The small number of farmer's couple with few populations and a lot of uncultivated lands allow herdsmen to wander about with their cattle freely. As the population of Nigeria increases over time and more lands cultivated, the herders' routes of open crazing were taking over by the farmers causing herders/farmers clashes. The clashes resulted in the loss of lives and properties due to neglect of the grazing reserves law by subsequent governments in Nigeria after the first republic. Therefore, clashes/conflicts emanate in pursuing limited scarce resources (farmlands, grasslands and water spots for animals) by both the farmers and herdsmen (Emmanuel, 2019). The major causes of farmers-herders clashes in Nigeria among others include lack of inadequate grazing area and conflict of interest over land resources among others.; cattle theft and attack; increase in human and livestock population; increase in agricultural practices; destruction of crop among others The adverse effects of farmers/herders' clashes include loss of human and animal lives; destruction of crops; reprisal attack which affects innocent souls; displacement of persons and animals; and distrust between herdsmen and farmers (Oli, Ibekwe & Nwankwo, 2018). As the clashes between herders and farmers deepen, the idea of Ruga settlements was re-echo during the fourth republic in Nigeria when the Federal government budgeted about N10 billion for the scheme and the money could not be found for its implementation. Nowadays, herdsmen are seen doing open crazing in schools, stadium surroundings and road sides as their crazing roots were taken over by the farmers because of the increase in number of people that engage in faming activities.

In order to ameliorate the problem and stop the roaming of cattle about, Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) approved the re-introduction of Ruga settlements in the six Geo-Political Zones of the country on 17th January, 2019 (Shehu, 2019). The scheme shall be implemented in seven pilot states which are prone to farmer-herder clashes in the country. Such states are Adamawa, Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Nasarawa, Taraba and Zamfara (Shehu, 2019). The re-introduction of the scheme by FGN follows the initiatives of the National Economic Council (NEC) presentation under the National Livestock Transformation Plan (2018-2027). It is conceptualized to permanently stop the age-long herders-farmers crises and to massively develop the livestock industry (Shehu, 2019). The scheme was formerly pronounced on 12th May, 2019 that the President had approved the Ruga settlement implementation and the scheme will start immediately.After the official pronouncement of the implementation plan of the Ruga settlement initiative, there were series of condemnations from some Nigerian in the Northern and Southern part of the country especially the Yorubas and Igbos from South as well as few Northern Christian faithful.

The condemnations were followed with a lot of protests by some citizens is some states like Benue and Taraba states. The citizens of these states think that the FGN is planning to take over the lands and no part of their lands will be ceded to the government. The protests made the FGN to suspend the idea of Ruga settlements initiatives plan on 3rd July, 2019 and made it voluntary as forcing the scheme on states may cause more clashes between herdsmen and farmers.In 2019, the Federal Government of Nigeria has made the issue of Ruga settlements

plan voluntary to states and some states like Gombe, Kano and Niger States have showed interest in the scheme due to its economic importance (Emmanuel, 2020). Ruga seeks to establish pastoral families in rural settlements in which animal farmers, not just Fulani herdsmen, will be settled in an organized place with provision of necessary and adequate basic amenities such as schools, hospitals, road networks, vet clinics, markets and manufacturing entities that will process and add value to meat and animal products. Beneficiaries of this settlement will include all persons in animal husbandry not only Fulani herders (Sadiq, 2019). The Ruga settlement plan, as envisioned by the Federal Government, was meant to be implemented primarily in the North and not throughout the country as it's been claimed by politicians and cultural groups. Even in the North where this program was originally planned for, only states that choose to participate would be a part of it, as no state government would be forced to provide land for the settlement (0baribe, Atere & Adeloye, 2019). The purpose of Ruga settlement strategy is to lay out how a focused effort in cattle and animal farming can become a catalyst for building national prosperity. This will be achieved by bringing together private investors, catalytic government services and capital, and targeted donor support. Using classic value chain building tools, it is designed to deliver for Nigeria the livestock sector transformation multiple countries have gone through from Paraguay and Brazil to Zambia and Ethiopia. Ruga settlement strategy is to support and strengthen the development of market-driven ranches in the livestock ecosystem for improved livestock productivity through breed (genetic) improvement and pasture production, in addition to efficient land and water productivity improvements. It will encourage investigation and action on the issues of access to land and water, the establishment and management of quality livestock, and provision of feed, infrastructure, markets, veterinary and other support services which are required to establish and operate profitable and sustainable livestock ranches (Ruga Policy Document, 2018).

Overview of Pastoralist Awareness about Ruga initiative

With the series of rejection of grazing bills proposed through the national assembly due to, among other things, emphasis on grazing routes which encourages open grazing, other alternatives have been explored by the Nigerian federal government. Arguably, grazing and settlement bills are not especially new in Nigeria. In 1976, for example, six grazing reserves were established with the help of the World Bank. Also, between 1987and 1995, the Federal Government of Nigeria established two Ndama cattle ranches in Enugu state, and one in Oyo state (Onah & Okwarigho, 2020). The Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) have consistently requested for the creation of additional grazing reserves and settlement camps. "The Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN), express its readiness for the use of Ruga settlements and tasked government to implement the 'Ruga Resettlement initiative' State Secretary of the Association Bello M. Bello in a statement issued in August,2019,said the implementation of the initiative is the best way of improving the lives of pastoralists.

The union said Government can easily use the existing grazing/game reserves in the state for this purpose by settling the herdsmen permanently, growing grasses, establishing veterinary

clinics, dispensaries, drilling boreholes/establish dams and schools on these settlements so that they can equally benefit from the dividends of democracy as their counterparts living in towns and cities," Bello appealed. In this case, maintaining of peaceful coexistence between farmers and Pastoralist will curtail the problem of encroachment into grazing reserves by farmers and vice versa as animals may not be roaming into farmlands (Charles & Bright, 2019). The types of conflicts for survival between the Fulani pastoralists and farmers in Northern Nigeria vary in form and intensity from one community to another. Social and economic factors continue to provoke violent conflicts among the Fulani pastoralists and farmers. The intensity and variations of the conflicts largely depend on the nature and type of the user groups where the pastoralists graze.

These conflicts have constituted serious threats to the means of survival and livelihoods of both the farmers and pastoralists and what both groups are tenaciously protecting and projecting. The conflicts, through provocative claims over access rights to farmland and cattle routes (labi), have become ubiquitous and seem to have defied solutions (Olayiwola, 2019). In order to develop an effective, efficient and acceptable system for managing these conflicts, there is the need to appreciate and identify the cultural issues associated with the vulnerable groups. In addition, there is the need to comprehend how the farmers and Fulani on the one hand and the community and the state on the other have viewed such conflicting issues and the strategies put in place to ameliorate or even resolve them. Until the sources of such conflicts are clearly identified, understood, managed and resolved, such incidences will continue to show their ugly heads at the slightest provocation (Isa, 2012). Various cases of conflicts in Northern Nigeria involving the Fulani pastoralists and farmers consist of significant variables in economic, social, political and ecological parameters. These conflicts occur mostly in areas of stiff competition for grazing land and farming but the degree of intensity differs from state to state depending on the ecological location and the communities involved.

Even though droughts and climate change in Northern Nigerian have worsen the trends of Fulani pastoralist relationships with farmers, the decrease in the annual rainfall and shortening of the wet season have added inputs to the intensity and magnitude of Fulani exodus southwards. These movements and the search for posture land have caused widespread conflicts and destruction of human and animal lives as well as farmlands with adverse implications for the political economy (Gafar, 2020). The exacerbation of vulnerability and conflicts in Northern Nigeria between Fulani pastoralists and farmers is not only caused by climate change but a combination of factors. For example, with the expansion of population, the rate of food production would naturally increase and to meet that increasing demand, it is natural for the farmers to encroach into marginal lands that had been the traditional pasture routes for the cattle. This has therefore, heightened struggle between livestock and agricultural production which, more often than not, result in the escalation of conflicts (Nyong, 2010). Hence, as population grows, more land is being cultivated and less is available for posture; forcing Fulani to migrate and tramp on crops cultivated by farmers (Nori et al., 2000). Against this background, the Pastoralist are ever ready to use Rural grazing area (Ruga) when it is fully established for the safety and security of their herd and their family (Kodili, 2020).

Methodology

This study adopted a survey research design to examine the pastoralist readiness to used the proposed rural grazing area (Ruga) in Gombe state. A survey method is used when a researcher is interested in studying the opinions, feelings and thoughts of the respondents about a particular situation (Fisher, 2010). This study comprises of three hundred and eighty four (384) representatives of Transhumance and Nomadic Pastoralists randomly selected from the eleven (11) local governments in Gombe state. The researcher arrived at the above sample of 384 Participants Sample based on Teddlie, (2009) who stated that for infinite population the sample size is 9604 for 99% confidence level, while 384 participants for 95% confidence level. The need to take sample becomes necessary since it is practically impossible for the researcher to investigate large number of element for data collection. Sample is the sub-set of population which a researcher used for data collection, Creswell (2012). Creswell further affirmed that larger size sample contribute to less error variance and better claims representativeness. Simple random sampling is used to select the Pastoralist. The Instrument for data collection is structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was adopted and used to measure the opinion of the respondents regarding the phenomenon under investigation (Sunusi, 2005). It is to seek the opinion of the respondents on the topic titled; Pastoralists Readiness to use the proposed rural grazing area (Ruga) in Gombe state. The instrument consist sixty (30) items that measured pastoralist readiness. The instrument was measured in five (5) point rating scale (strongly Agreed = 5 points, Agreed =4 points; Moderately Agreed = 3 points; disagreed =2 points; strongly disagreed = 1 point). Respondents responded in accordance with the level of agreement to the statement contained in the Instrument. To establish the reliability of the instrument, 40 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to Pastoralists in Yelo of Bauchi state which is outside the study area. Iregbu (2013) recommended that for a sample of up to a 100 and above, 10% subjects are sufficient for pilot study. The data collected were subjected to cronbach alpha reliability test and a reliability coefficient of .782 was obtained. The instrument was found to be reliable based on the suggestion of Hair et al who opined that a minimum reliability coefficient of survey instrument should not be less than .70, hence the instrument was considered suitable for the study.

Results

Research question one: What are the socio economic characteristics encouraging Pastoralists readiness to adopt Ruga settlement in Gombe state?

The output of descriptive statistics presented in Table one indicated that all the items of the variable socioeconomic characteristics have mean scores above 3.0 except item 2, 6 and 10 which has 2.87, 2.85 and 2.68 respectively. The mean scores ranges from 2.85 - 3.37, with a standard deviation of 1.032 and .848 respectively. The grand mean was 3.08 and standard deviation .325. The grand mean value obtained fall under scale of agreed. The result indicated that the respondents agreed with the statement items on socioeconomic characteristics of pastoralist in Gombe state.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics on the extent to which socioeconomic characteristics influenced pastoralists to adopt Ruga settlement in Gombe state

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Living in rural community encourage me to adopt Ruga settlement	3.10	1.01	Agreed
2	Source of my income only comes from the sales of my livestock animal	2.87	.909	Disagreed
3	I am pastoralists without a house anywhere	3.27	.885	Agreed
4	My children doesn't attend any formal school	3.25	.795	Agreed
5	My family doesn't go to hospital for health issues	3.03	.918	Agreed
6	sell of animals and their products is at weekly market	2.85	1.032	Disagreed
7	I use traditional medicine for my herd	3.05	1.034	Agreed
8	There are cattle, goats and sheep in my herd	3.37	.848	Agreed
9	I have limited income	3.17	.901	Agreed
10	pastures are gotten at long distances	2.86	.974	Disagreed
	Grand mean	**3.08**	**.325**	**Agreed**

Source: Field survey (2023)

Research question two: What is the pastoralists' level of awareness about Ruga settlement in Gombe state?

The result of descriptive statistics presented in Table two (2) indicated that all the items of the variable pastoralists' awareness on Ruga settlement have mean scores above 3.0. The mean scores ranges from 3.19 – 3.73, with a standard deviation of 1.072 and 1.177 respectively. The grand mean was 3.39 and standard deviation .516. This suggested that the respondents agreed with all the statements of Pastoralists awareness about Ruga settlement in Gombe state.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics about pastoralists' level of awareness about Ruga settlement in Gombe state

S/N	**Items**	**Mean**	**SD**	**Decision**
1	I know all about Ruga Settlement	3.50	1.094	Agreed
2	I am aware of the health facilities in Ruga Settlement	3.29	.955	Agreed
3	We have adequate vaccination schedule for the animal	3.23	1.073	Agreed
4	I am aware of school for pastoralists children in Ruga Settlement	3.32	1.149	Agreed
5	I am aware of market in Ruga Settlement	3.32	1.187	Agreed
6	I am aware of roads in Ruga Settlement	3.59	1.164	Agreed
7	I am aware of adequate water and grazing areas in Ruga Settlement	3.73	1.177	Agreed
8	There is adequate security in Ruga settlement	3.22	1.091	Agreed
9	Herder-farmer conflict ends with Ruga settlement	3.22	1.142	Agreed
10	I am aware of increase in milk and meat production	3.19	1.072	Agreed
Grand mean		**3.39**	**.516**	**Agreed**

Source: Field work (2023)

Research Question Three: What is the extent of Pastoralist readiness to use Ruga settlement in Gombe state?

The result of descriptive statistics in table three (3) indicated that all the items measuring the pastoralists' readiness to used Ruga settlement in Gombe have mean scores above 3.0. It ranges from 3.01 – 3.37, with a standard deviation of 1.032 and .848 respectively. The grand mean was 3.12 and standard deviation .323. This indicated that the respondents agreed with all the statement about readiness of pastoralists to used Ruga settlement in Gombe state.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of pastoralists' readiness to used Ruga settlement in Gombe state

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Ready to relocate to Ruga settlement	3.25	1.157	Agreed
2	Ready to use health facilities in Ruga settlement	3.16	1.147	Agreed
3	Ready to embrace vaccination schedule of the Ruga Settlement	3.10	1.010	Agreed
4	Ready to live peacefully with nearby people of the Ruga community	3.01	.909	Agreed
5	Ready to live peacefully with other livestock Herders/keepers	3.27	.885	Agreed
6	Ready to use Ruga to provide shelter for my family	3.25	.795	Agreed
7	Ruga market will be use for my sells	3.03	.918	Agreed
8	Available feeds will be use for my livestock	3.04	1.032	Agreed
9	I will pay tax and levies at the Ruga when due	3.05	1.034	Agreed
10	Obedient to the rules and regulation at the Ruga	3.37	.848	Agreed
	Grand mean	**3.12**	**.323**	**Agreed**

Source: Field work (2023)

Results of Hypothesis

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference between the socio economic characteristics of transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists in Gombe state.

Results in table 4 shows that transhumant and nomadic pastoralists differs significantly in their socio economic characteristics. This is because the (P value = .000) was less than 0.05 level of significant. Thus, the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the socio economic characteristics of transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists in Gombe state was rejected.

Table 4: Independent sample t-test on the difference between the socio economic characteristics of transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists in Gombe state

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Df	P-value	Decision
Transhumance	192	3.05	.360	-1.984	382	.000	Rejected

Nomadic	192	3.11	.282				

Hypotheses two; There is no significant difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists level of awareness about Ruga settlement in Gombe state.

As seen in Table 5, the result shows that there is no significant difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists level of awareness about Ruga settlement in Gombe state. That is to say (P-value = .290), was found to be significant, greater than the predicted 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists level of awareness about Ruga settlement in Gombe state was accepted.

Table 5: Independent sample t-test on the difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists level of awareness about Ruga settlement in Gombe state

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Df	P-value	Decision
Transhumance	192	3.47	.496	.2.93	382	.290	Accepted
Nomadic	192	3.31	.525				

Hypothesis three: There is no significant difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists view on the readiness to use Ruga settlement in Gombe state.

The result in Table 6 shows there is no significant difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists view on the readiness to use Ruga settlement in Gombe state. That is to say (P value =.281), was found to be significant greater than the predicted 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists view on the readiness to use Ruga settlement in Gombe state was accepted.

Table 6: Independent sample t-test on the difference between transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists view on the readiness to use Ruga settlement in Gombe state

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Df	P-value	Decision
Transhumance	192	3.11	.356	-.852	382	.281	Accepted
Nomadic	192	3.13	.288				

Discussion of findings

The outcome of research question one and its corresponding hypothesis indicated that there is difference in the socio economic characteristics of transhumant and nomadic Pastoralists in Gombe state. This finding is consistent with earlier investigations of Shuaibu Ndaji and Seyedi (2019) who investigated the feelings of the residents of Bobi grazing reserve concerning socio-economic importance and conflict resolution strategy using Ruga settlements in Mariga Local Government Area of Niger State. The respondents are of the opinion that Ruga settlement plan will not reduce farmer-herders clashes and 71% of the people observe that Ruga settlement plan will create job opportunities for most unemployed youths in the area. Similarly, the finding of this study was also in consonant with that of Emmanuel O. (2020), who in his finding revealed that revealed that the reasons for rejections and counter reactions against policies are related to the fear of ethnic domination and suspicion among Nigerian stakeholders. This work affirms that the Ruga is a policy formulated amidst perceived and overwhelming ethnic prejudice

Research question two findings and its corresponding hypothesis indicated that pastoralists in Gombe state are aware of the proposed plan to establish Ruga settlement in the state. The findings disagree with that of Emmanuel (2020) who stated that Ruga settlement is a policy formulated amidst perceived and overwhelming ethnic prejudice, and that the Pastoralists are not aware about it. It concludes that there is need for collective and inclusive policy formulation and implementation that recognizes collective effort with a modern political economy policy for sustainable development.

Findings from research question three with its corresponding hypothesis revealed that pastoralists in Gombe state agreed and are ready to adopt and use rural grazing area (Ruga) settlement. The findings is supported by that of Salahu and Shehu (2020) who reported that ranching and use of Rural Grazing Area (Ruga) settlement be encouraged by the government to reduce the effect of the conflict. Policies and strategies aimed at reducing the household size and enhancing cooperative formation should be pursued. The Findings disagree with that of Anthony (2019) which concluded that the proposed rural grazing area is a challenge to national sustainability and not a solution. Findings also disagreed with the findings of Chukwe A. And Awujo (2020) who revealed that Ruga settlement is a menace and should be cancelled. Findings also agreed with that of Charles, P and Bright (2019) who affirmed that Pastoralists in Nigeria are tired of open grazing and conflicts with farmers and are now ready to relocate to Ruga settlement.

Conclusion

The findings of this study shed light on the Pastoralist Readiness to use Ruga settlement in Gombe state. Notably, Pastoralist in Gombe state are ready to adopt and use the Proposed Ruga settlement plan around wawa-zange grazing reserve in Dukku local Government and other places in Gombe state. The Pastoralist are aware of the plan, agreed with its advantages, security and the available feeds at the Ruga settlement. This make pastoralists sedentary in a confined land area. However, the scheme improve the income of the Pastoralist through increase in output, and socio-economic activities of the people residence in the area as business activities improve and equally go a long way in eradicating the problem of farmers/herders clashes in Gombe state and Nigeria in particular.

Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the following recommendations were made.

i. The Federal Government should make Ruga compulsory on all states as a viable path to resolving the farmers-herdsmen incessant conflicts to modernize cattle breeding and rearing in Nigeria in tandem with global best practices.
ii. There is need to create a platform that will bring all stakeholders together on a quarterly basis in order to have an interaction and to employ extension agents to serve as an intermediary between farmers and pastoralist.
iii. Government should established ranching and use of Rural Grazing Area (RUGA) settlement to reduce the effect of the conflict. Policies and strategies aimed at reducing the household size and enhancing cooperative formation.

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