

Preventing Farmer-Herder Conflicts in Ghana: A Constellation of Local Strategies and Solutions

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Abstract : The rollercoaster relationship between farmers and herders in Sub-Saharan Africa has compelled most governments to undertake different mitigating strategies. Over the past two decades, the expulsion of migrant herdsman, the killing of cattle and human beings, and fines have been used by the state and aggrieved individuals to resolve the conflicts. Unlike this paper, most of the research conducted on this subject matter has been largely theoretical and lacks practical solutions to the conflicts. This paper is unique because it focuses on concrete strategies and practical solutions to ending the century-old phenomenon of farmer-herder conflicts in Ghana. The paper employed power or compete (fight) theory as well as compromise and negotiation theories in the analyses. The paper employed, basically, socio-anthropological methods: interviews, focus group discussions, and observations to gather data. The paper found that compromises through negotiation with the stakeholders are the best ways of resolving these conflicts. Through this, we support the compromise and negotiation approach rather than expulsion to resolve farmer-herder conflicts.

Keywords : farmer-herder, conflict, prevention, strategies, stakeholders

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