

## **Assessment of the Effect of Farmer-Herder Conflict on the Livelihood of Rural Households in Bogoro Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Nigeria**

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**Abstract :** The study assessed the effect of farmer-herder conflict on the livelihood of rural households in Bogoro L.G.A., Bauchi State, Nigeria. Multistage sampling procedures were used to randomly select 66 crop farmers in the study area. Data were collected by means of a structured questionnaire. The result was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results showed that the majority of the respondents were males with a mean age of 39 years and a farming experience of 16 years. About 95% of the respondents had formal education, with a mean household size of 8 persons per household. Farmer-herder conflicts were found to be caused by grazing on growing crops, wrong approach by farmers in raising complaints and harassment of herdsman, absence of grazing route and poisoning of uncultivated lands. Constraints to resolving conflict were found to include personal interest, lack of government will, ethnicity and religious difference and open grazing ranking first, second and third, among others. Six factors connected to farmer-herder conflict were found to significantly affect the livelihood of rural households. These were the value of crops destroyed, the number of livestock lost, and the cost of treatment of wounds sustained from the conflict. The value of crops and the size of farmland abandoned in fear were significant, and the cost of seeking redress was significant at  $P \leq 0.01$ . It was concluded that farmer-herder conflict impacts negatively not only crops and animals but also affects the lives of farmers and herders as well as their economy. It is recommended that proper methods be adopted to avoid its occurrence, and when it occurs, the erring party should be appropriately punished.

**Keywords :** farmers, herders, conflict, effect, coping

**Conference Title :** ICADS 2025 : International Conference on Animal and Dairy Sciences

**Conference Location :** Tokyo, Japan

**Conference Dates :** November 11-12, 2025