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## **Management Strategies in Resolving Cattle's Herdsmen Conflict with their host Communities in Nigeria**

By Florence A. Undiyaundeye and Julius A Basake

### **Abstract**

The article investigates management strategies in resolving conflict between cattle's herdsman and their host communities in Nigeria, the nation has in recent times lost both its human and material resources to these ugly phenomena. The paper adopted two research questions and two null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. Purposive sampling methods were adopted selecting two hundred and fifty respondents as sample size for the study. The instrument for data collection was the researchers constructed questionnaire tag 'conflict Management strategies for herdsman's Questionnaire' (CMSHQ) the instrument was validated by two research experts from the University of Calabar, Calabar Nigeria. An overall reliable coefficient of 0.78 was obtained using Cronbach alpha Mean ratings and standard deviation were used in answering the research questions. While ANOVA was used in testing the hypothesis The data analysis revealed that management strategies for conflict resolution that should be adopted include measures such as proper notification of the natives before entering the communities and the herdsman sticking to allotted area of grazing The researcher therefore recommends that Government and the relevant agencies to carry out a campaign on the value of human life and the need for peaceful co existing.

**Keywords:** management strategies, conflict resolution, cattle herdsman and host communities

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## **Management strategies in resolving cattle's herdsman conflict with their host communities in Nigeria**

By Florence A. Undiyaundeye and Julius. A Basake

### **Introduction**

Conflicts like change will always occur given the dynamics of human interactions; It will occur between family members, workers, colleagues, supervisors, boards of management in our work or play environments, between organisations and within organisations. Why is this? Because we all have different interests, goals, perception, viewpoints, values and experiences. The Paradox of conflict is that it is both the force that can tear relationships apart and the force that binds them together, meaning that they can be either healthy (constructive) or unhealthy (destructive). This dual nature of conflict makes it an important concept to study and understand.

It is normal for people to live and work well together to have conflicts from time to time. We disagree with each other because we see the world differently and we have different ideas about what we want and how to do things. Our individual and collective backgrounds and experiences e.g. in cultural, spiritual, political and economic aspects are different; each and every one of us has a different and unique personality.

Conflict has been defined as disagreement between people with different ideas or beliefs; it is also defined as disagreement through which parties involved perceive a threat to their needs, interests or concern. Although conflict is a normal part of human life, providing numerous opportunities for growth through improved understanding and insight, there is a tendency to view conflict as a negative experience caused by difficult circumstances.

Disputants tend to perceive limited options and finite solutions rather than multiple possibilities that may exist 'outside the box' in which we are problem solving. Conflict should not be regarded as an isolated event that can be resolved or managed, but as an integral part of society's on - going evolution and development. It should not be understood solely as an inherently negative and destructive occurrence but rather as a potentially positive and productive force for change if harnessed constructively. Having understood what conflict is, it is clear that the existence of conflict in an organization is as natural as the organization itself. Conflict is a natural part of life, this is because no two individuals are the same.

An organization is a collection of people from different cultural backgrounds; they have different sets of values and ideas. Individuals look at situations or problems in organizational life from their unique perspective, which is the result of the circumstance within which they have grown. Conflict management refers to long term handling of intractable disputes. It is the label for the variety of ways by which people handle grievances, standing up for what they consider to be right and against what they consider to be wrong. When two or more people have to work together and combine ideas, the doorway of conflict is open. The manufacturing industry like any other study set up is a dynamic community. It is a work situation that is not static. Job and

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work situations as well as terms of employment that may not be in agreement with all employees often result in conflicts.

In managing conflict well, the managers have to realise that there are several conflict management strategies. The key to managing conflict well is choosing and executing the strategy that best fits the situation. Akpotu, Onoyase, and Onoyase (2008) have stressed that management strategies are the strategies in which the managers of organizations being aware of existence of conflict situation will intervene to modify or settle conflict between the parties involved. The intervention strategies identified by Akpatu are as follows: smoothing, forcing, detraction, arbitration. Smoothing is a technique which discourages the difference between the parties involved in the conflict and encourages what they have as common interest. According to Blake and Nouton (2008) Smoothing involves the loser of win-lose configuration and represented high cooperation with the needs of others along with low assertiveness of one's own needs. Forcing is a way of putting an end to conflict. It appears to be the oldest, but popularly used by administrators in the resolution of conflict. Best (2009) asserted that the introduction of police and other law enforcement authorities may call for the use of extra-ordinary measures, including force to restore law and order. Detraction is a situation where the parties are provided with much work in the conflict in order to remove their minds from the conflict. Huth and Russet (1993) maintained that the purpose of detraction is to prevent the escalation of the conflict to a dangerous dimension. According to Akpatu, Onoyase and Onoyase (2008) said that arbitration is where the parties involved in dispute submit themselves to the judgement of the arbitrator and the decision of the arbitrator is binding on all the parties. Ovwigho (2004) said the parties in conflict are brought together for peaceful settlement of the issue by a third party called the arbitrator. He went on to say that the frequent use of third party intervention may give impression that the leader has lost control of the system.

Conflict is not a problem but it becomes a problem when conflict is poorly managed. Ghaffer (2010) says that conflict is a problem when it: hampers productivity, lowers morale, causes more and more continued conflicts, causes inappropriate behaviour among parties, among students and different groups. When there is long standing conflict in an organization, productivity comes to a halt. If it happens in the higher institution, the authorities, academic, non-academic staff and students will be afraid to come out for fear of being wounded or killed.

According to Abbas (2009) a study of major sources of conflicts between the Fulani pastoralists (to be used interchangeably with "herders" or "herdsmen") and farmers shows that land related issues, especially on grazing fields, account for the highest percentage of the conflicts. In other words, struggles over the control of economically viable lands cause more tensions and violent conflicts among communities. 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. The conflicts (though provocative) over access rights to farmland and cattle routes (*labi*), have become

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ubiquitous and seems to have defied solutions (Abbas, 2009). However, Coser (2000) has noted that, the inevitability of conflict in the claim for scarce resource is considered here as the bane for struggles over the inestimable value for land and its resource, with the claim for ownership and the claim for its position as a common resource. Nevertheless, the complex land use system that has changed markedly overtime has culminated in the present day tension and conflicts between Fulani herdsman and host communities.

Competition-driven conflicts between arable crop farmers host communities and cattle herdsman have become common occurrences in many parts of Nigeria. The competition between these two agricultural land user-groups has often times turned into serious overt and covert hostilities and social friction in many parts of Nigeria. Cases of herders-farmers conflicts are widespread in recent times. Also many farmers and herders have lost their lives and herds while others have experienced dwindling productivity in their herds. In most of these encounters, citizens are regularly killed and the destruction or loss of property leaves an already endangered populace even poorer. The frequency and scale of these communal conflicts have become alarming

Therefore, in the context of host communities and the herdsman, one key element of the ability of managers to control conflicts is to understand the peculiar characteristics of the crisis elements involves , which is under their control. Meanwhile as the old methods of conflict resolution continue to be applied, conflicts have continued to ravage the places , the herdsman and their host communities north Cross River state Nigeria disrupting activities and programs. Lives are still being lost; property and infrastructure are also being damaged. One wonders if the management and administrators are willing to switch over to using the seemingly better and more effective new management strategies for the resolution of conflicts in this environments. It is against this background that the researchers seeks to determine the management strategies for conflict resolution between herdsman and their host communities in Northern Cross River state, Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study

1. What are the management strategies employed by the government in resolving the herdsman and host communities Conflicts?
2. What are the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution among the herdsman and host communities in northern Cross River state Nigeria?

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following research hypotheses guide the study

1. There are no significant factors responsible for the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the local chiefs and the herdsman on the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution by the government

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### **Methodology**

The design of this study was descriptive survey design which investigated Management Strategies for Conflict Resolution in Federal and State Universities in South East Nigeria. According to Ali (2006) descriptive survey is concerned with describing events as they are, without any manipulation of what caused the event or what is being observed. Ofordile (2002) added that it may involve the procedure of induction, analysis, classification, enumeration or measurement. This survey design is considered most appropriate for the study because it allows the collection of original data from the respondents themselves. The survey design also helps to homogenize the population and allows all respondents equal chance of being selected

### **Sampling Procedure and Sample Size**

The target populations for this study are the cattle herders and crop farmers. A multi-stage sampling was used to select the respondents of this study. The first stage involved the purposive selection of three Local Government Areas, after of the five that make up the senatorial zones. This selection was based on the frequency of occurrence of farmer-herder conflict in the state. These Local Government Areas selected has recorded frequent clashes between herders and farmers. They are: Faskari in the South, Mai" Adua from the North and Kaita from the Central senatorial zones.

The second stage involved purposive sampling of 3 villages (farming communities) from each of the 3 selected Local Government Areas, also based on the frequency of occurrence, making a total of 9 villages. In the case of the herders, due to the nature of their settlement pattern and economic activities, their grazing places, markets and their extended family settlements (*Rugage*) were detected. A total of 21 farmers and 21 cattle herders from each of the 3 Local Government areas were chosen using the snowball sampling method, thus given a total of 63 crop farmers and 63 cattle herders. The snowball method was used by identifying one respondent that helps the researcher to identify the other, on and on. In all, 126 respondents were selected for enumeration by use of structured interview.

The instrument for data collection was the questionnaire titled 'conflict Management strategies for herdsman's Questionnaire' (CMSHQ). The researchers developed the items through the information got from the literature review and the research questions. For the items, Likert type scales of strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD) with the numerical values of 4, 3, 2, and 1 respectively were used at the end of each statement. The instrument will have two sections namely: Section A is the demographic variables of the respondents and section B, the items made up of fifteen items,

The instrument was subjected to face validation by two experts of which one came from the department of Educational Administration and planning and one also from the department of Measurement and Evaluation all in University of Calabar, Calabar Nigeria. The experts examined, modified and vetted the appropriateness of the instrument. Their comments,

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suggestions and corrections were strictly adhered to in the production of the final draft of the instrument.

To determine the reliability, the instrument was trial-tested using 20 respondents made up of five chief, five herdsman's and ten communities members in Benue state Nigeria. This was done to establish the internal consistency reliability using Cronbach Alpha. The reliability was calculated. Internal estimates gave a measure of the homogeneity of the items in an instrument. At the end of the analysis, the scores obtained were 0.75 the alpha for the four clusters put together is 0.83 (see appendix). This showed that the instrument 'conflict Management strategies for herdsman's Questionnaire' (CMSHQ) was reliable for the study. Since it was reliable, it was applied.

The data for the study was collected through personal administration by the researcher and help of two research assistants who were trained by the researcher. They were trained on the objective of the study, how to reach the subjects, method of administering the questionnaire as well as collecting them back. The researchers and the research assistants visited the areas of study and administered the instrument. The instrument were distributed to the respondents and retrieved on the spot. Method of The data collected were analysed using mean, standard deviation and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The research questions 1-2 were answered using mean and standard deviation. The boundary limit for the mean and standard deviation was 2.50.

## **Findings and Discussion**

### **Research Question 1**

What are the management strategies employed by the Government in resolving conflict between host communities and herdsman in northern cross river state Nigerian?

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**Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Response to government Management Strategies Employed by the government Teams in Handling Conflict between host communities and herdsman in northern cross river state, Nigeria.**

S/N O	Items	Herdsman Mean SD	Host Mean SD	Total Mean SD	Remarks
1.	Usin or coercion to control The herdsman e.g. deploying security men. 1.01 Agreed	2.90	1.00	2.88 1.02	2.88
2.	Expelling herdsman who are involved in conflict. 2.88 0.93 Agreed		3.04 0.90	2.77	0.94
3.	Killing of the of the natives 2.62 1.03 Agreed		2.64 1.02	2.60	1.05
4.	Arresting and detaining herdsman’s by the police or security men. 2.68 0.97 Agreed		2.79 0.93	2.60	0.99
5.	Refusing the Muslim from building their mosque 2.76 1.04 Agreed		2.73 0.99	2.78	1.07
6.	Banning of herdsman from the community. 2.52 1.07 Agreed	2.52	1.06	2.53	1.09
7.	The mosques are closed down because of the conflict. 2.56 1.06 Agreed		2.54 1.03	2.58	1.08
8.	The herdsman are made to pay for the damages Caused 0.98 Agreed	2.83	0.93	2.78 1.02	2.80
	Overall 2.75 0.70 Agree		2.77 0.67	2.73	0.72
1.	*Item Code- See appendix A				

Table 1 shows the mean and standard deviation of the response to the management strategies employed by the management team herdsman and their host communities in Northern Cross River state Nigeria in handling conflicts. The result revealed that items 1 to 9, with the mean ranging between 2.52 and 3.00, were agreed to by the respondents as the management strategies employed by the management teams of herdsman and their host communities in resolving conflicts. The overall mean is 2.75 while the standard deviation is 0.70 and these imply that the

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respondents agreed to the items on the management strategies employed by the management teams in handling conflicts.

**Research Question 2**

What are the management strategies to be adopted for conflicts resolution between host communities and herdsman in northern cross river state Nigerian

**Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Response to Management Strategies to be adopted for Conflicts Resolution between host communities and herdsman in northern cross river state Nigerian**

S/no	Items	Herdsman Means SD	Host Means SD	TOtAL Means SD	Remarks
1.	Organizing seminars on usefulness of peace for the both groups 0.71 Agreed	3.47	0.65	3.34 0.74	3.40
1.	Lack of access to water points 0.79 Agreed	3.44	0.75	3.40 0.83	3.42
2.	Provision adequate grazing reserves 0.69 Agreed	3.45	0.67	3.48 0.71	3.47
3.	Review of the amount of money paid as Compensation by herdsman’s. 0.79 Agreed	3.44	0.75	3.40 0.83	3.42
4.	Introducing peace and conflict t at tie of education Agreed	3.47	0.73	3.29 0.76	3.37 0.75
5.	Avoiding calling in the police over any issue but to negotiate with both groups leaders 0.89 Agreed	3.14	0.87	3.04 0.91	3.08
6.	Avoid indiscriminate bush burring. 0.67 Agreed	3.43	0.67	3.38 0.68	3.40
7.	Regular meeting between the government and both parties 0.75 Agreed	3.33	0.73	3.31 0.77	3.31

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Table 2 shows the mean and standard deviation of the management strategies to be adopted for conflicts resolution between host communities and herdsman in Northern Cross River state Nigeria. The result revealed that items 1 to 8, with the mean ranging between 3.14 and 3.56, were agreed to by the respondents as the management strategies to be adopted for conflicts resolution between host communities and herdsman in Northern Cross River state Nigeria. The overall mean is 3.34 while the Standard deviation is 0.41 and these imply that the items were agreed to by the respondents as the management strategies to be adopted for conflicts resolution between host communities and herdsman in Northern Cross River state Nigeria.

### Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on factors responsible for the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders. In Northern cross River state Nigeria

**Table 3: Summary of ANOVA of Difference among the Mean Rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on factors responsible for the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders. In Northern cross River state Nigeria**

Source	Sum of Squares	Df	Means square	F	Sig	Remarks
Between group	2.33	2	1.162			
Within group	179.030	368	.4862	.388	.093	NS
Total	181.353	370				

Table 3 shows the summary of ANOVA table for difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on factors responsible for the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders. In Northern cross River state Nigeria. The result revealed that the calculated value of F is 2.388 with the P = 0.093. This F-value is not significant at 0.05, this is because 0.093 is greater than 0.05 that is ( $p = 0.093$ ;  $p > 0.05$ ). Therefore, the hypothesis fails to reject hence, there is no significant difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on factors responsible for the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in Northern cross River state.

### Hypothesis 4

There is no significant difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution by the government. In Northern Cross River state Nigeria. on the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution by the government

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**Table 4: Summary of ANOVA of Difference among the Mean Rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution by the government. In Northern Cross River State on the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution on the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution by the government**

Source	Sum of Squares	Df	Means square	F	Sig	Remarks
Between group	.046	2	.023			
Within group	61.389	368	.167	.137	.872	NS
Total	61.435	370				

Table 4 shows the summary of the ANOVA for difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution by the government. In Northern Cross River state Nigeria.

The result revealed that the calculated value of F is 0.137 with the P = 0.872. This F-value is not significant at 0.05 level, because 0.872 is greater than 0.05 that is ( $p = 0.872$ ;  $p > 0.05$ ). Therefore, the hypothesis fail to reject hence, there is no significant difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution by the government. In Northern Cross River state Nigeria.

Discussions were made taking cognizance of the research questions and the hypotheses formulated for the study. The nature of conflicts manifestations experienced between host communities, and herdsman in Northern Cross River state Nigeria.

Responses to question one in table one showed that the three groups of, host communities, herdsman and government agencies agreed on all the items from 1 to 8 on nature of conflicts experienced by host communities and herdsman in Northern Cross River state Nigeria. The analysis of the research question one showed the overall mean value of 2.77 with Standard deviation of 0.79 implying that conflicts manifest in those forms such as riots, destruction of lives and properties, demonstrations, harassment of natives and burning of mosques . This is in line with what Amadi (2002) identified as the nature of conflicts in host communities, and herdsman According to her, herdsman violently destroy lives and natives properties, causing unrest within their host communities write petitions against the local authorities and demonstrate violently against the them. Amadi also added holding incitement meeting, and destroying natives farms, as further manifestations of conflicts. The content of cluster A if viewed critically, showed that those are the methods herdsman’s and host communities use to express their grievances when their demands are not met. This is also in line with Burton’s (2006) opinion where he said that when an individual or group is denied its fundamental need for identity, security, recognition, comfort or equal participation within the society or institution, protracted

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conflict is inevitable. If the cluster A is critically observed further, it showed that management may have taken some actions that the both host communities and herdsman found unacceptable which made them to react in those ways. At times the security and needs of both host communities and herdsman's are considered as though they are not part and parcel of the country. The communities at their level of thinking may resort to destroying and killing at the slightest provocation. Herdsman's, on the other hand will go on revenge or having a dialogue with other stake holders until the issue is considered/resolved.

When conflicts actually arise, management should be careful not to resort to any action that may result to escalation. It should be noted that conflicts do not always produce negative effects as the resultant interactions may produce positive change in the system. Conflicts help the government to look into their style of management and policies. Conflicts also help management to build, plan and organize the administration of the state. On this, Ghaffer (2010) opined that "conflict is inevitable and often good because good teams always go through a form, storm, and norm and perform". The threat of violence has a deterrent effect tending towards stabilization and therefore, towards the maintenance of peace.

The findings of the hypothesis of table 3 indicated that the calculated F value is 4.618 with  $p= 0.01$  which is less than 0.05. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected. There is therefore statistically significant difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on the nature of conflicts manifestations in Northern Cross River state in Nigeria.

In table 4, Post-Hoc test was done to determine the direction of the difference for F-value when a statistically significant difference is observed. The Post Hoc test for the difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on the nature of conflicts manifestations in confirmed that there is statistically significant difference between the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies. This implies that although all accept that the factors listed are all forms of manifestations of conflicts between host communities, herdsman and government agencies, host communities' perception differ significantly from that of herdsman.

This reinforces the need for government to handle and listen to the both parties carefully before decisions that affect them are taken. This should be in addition to the opinion of all stakeholders. Every group in the conflict has their own subculture. Government should understand the host communities, and herdsman to know how to communicate in the appropriate language to either group.

### **The management strategies employed by the Government teams in handling conflicts between host communities, herdsman and Government agencies in Northern Cross River state Nigeria**

Responses to items in cluster B by the respondents revealed that the items 9 to 15 with mean rating between 2.52 and 3.00 were agreed to by the respondents as the management strategies

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employed by the management team. It has an overall mean of 2.75 and overall standard deviation of 0.70 and this implies that the host communities, herdsman and government agencies agreed that the government use these strategies in handling conflicts

These strategies include: Using force or coercion to control host communities, expelling herdsman who are involved in conflict, calling in police to disperse host communities with tear gas, suspension of local chief and communities leaders for planning a demonstration, closing down mosque because of conflict, making herdsman fees for damages, arresting and detaining communities youth by the police or security men.

Agreement to these strategies by the three groups of respondents implies that the host communities and herdsman probably do not approve of the strategies used by the management. These strategies tend to escalate conflicts before de-escalating.. This agrees with what Ghaffer (2010) said that conflict is a problem when it hampers productivity, lowers morale, causes more and more continued conflicts, causes inappropriate behaviours among parties, and different groups. Approach to a problem that has already shown itself is very important. There is nothing wrong with the management going into discussion or dialogue with the host communities, and herdsman so that government will achieve their goals. Olawale (2004) successfully generated cooperative problem solving relation between antagonist parties. The test of the hypothesis three on the ANOVA among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on management strategies employed by government revealed that the P-value is greater than 0.05 and the F-value is not statistically significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore, the hypothesis has failed to reject, hence, there is no statistically significant difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies

### **Management Strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution between host communities, herdsman**

With reference to research question two which intend to determine the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution in host communities, and herdsman in Northern Cross River state Nigeria The overall mean rating of the two groups showed that the items was agreed to by the respondents. The overall mean was 3.34 and the overall standard deviation of 0.41; this implies that they agreed to the respondents as the management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution between host communities, and herdsman If the items are viewed critically, it would be noticed that all the means of the items are above 3.14 except in the item number 15, which suggests/proposes avoiding discussing some herdsman' problems but to allow the problems die a natural death. The question is, whether it will ever die a natural death? The respondents did not agree with that as a strategy to be adopted for conflict resolution. Their mean rating for the groups had mean rating that were below 2.50 which implies that they did not agree. In the view of Hilgert and Leonard (1998) avoidance option to conflict resolution may be appropriate when conflict is perceived to be minor.

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According to Best (2009) it is a way of not addressing the conflict or a tactful way of postponing the conflict for better time if at all such a time will come. This is in line with what Neal (2003) said, that the issues on conflict should not be debated inconclusively and people's feeling should not be considered whether conflict will be resolved or abated.

This implies that whenever conflict has showcased itself in any organization or institution, it should not be avoided by any means. The conflict should be tackled so as to stop it from escalating further. The three groups, host communities, herdsman and government agencies agreed in all the other factors that there should be a change in the way conflicts are handled on all the crisis involving communities and the herdsman. Not only that, it implies that these strategies should be adopted in order to make a positive impact on the system.

The testing of the hypothesis four of table 9, the summary of ANOVA of the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on management strategies to be adopted for conflict resolution host communities, and herdsman indicated that the F-value is not statistically significant at the 0.05 level the P-value being greater than 0.05. Therefore, the hypothesis fails to reject, hence, there is no significant difference among the mean rating of host communities, herdsman and government agencies on management strategies to be adopted for conflicts resolution between host communities, herdsman and in Northern Cross Rivers State Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

From the findings, socioeconomic variable such as age has significant implication on the conflict. This is because of the fact that farming and rearing of animal are predominantly carried out by middle aged people within the range of 30-50 years, who are energetic and therefore more willing to participate in violent conflict than the elderly persons. Also, a very low level of formal education is peculiar to the respondents, which is not a healthy situation with regard to the conflict; this is because educated people are more likely to bring better understanding to issues than uneducated people. Despite the importance of education, many of the respondents have not embraced it. The major immediate causes of the conflict are crop damage and land encroachment. Cultivation of crops was extended into grazing reserves and cattle routes, while crops are being eaten and destroyed by cattle. This is an issue that has consistently been in the forefront of most of the farmer-herder conflicts. Each party blaming the other, but the reality is that, land has been under pressure as a result of increase in population coupled with the problem aggravated by poor land tenure administration. As such, farmers view cattle tracts and grazing reserves as lands not possessed by anyone and can therefore be freely encroached

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are suggested for proper conflict resolutions between cattle herders and the farmers:

- I. Formal education for both the herdsman and the farmers should be encouraged through sensitization using individual and mass communication with the aid of extension agents

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and radio programmes respectively. Also nomadic education and vocational training schools should be strengthened to perform better.

- II. There should be enhanced public information and education on the need to respect the law with regard to restricted areas such as grazing and forest reserves.
- III. Government at all levels should explore better involvement of indigenous resource user groups in policies relating to natural resource management and utilization.
- IV. Survey, demarcation, beaconing and gazettement of the government owned grazing reserves and cattle routes, to reduce pressure on the already overstretched reserves.
- V. Periodic orientation of herdsman at the reserve points to assist social enlightenment pattern
- VI. Effective reduction of seasonal inter-regional movement of the herdsman and emphasis on economic values of both animals and farmer's produce to community.

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