



## ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF NOMADIC FULANI MIGRATION ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN LERE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

Nomadism is a lifestyle of people who do not live permanently in one place, but constantly move cyclically or periodically from one place to another. The study seeks to investigate the effect of their migration on agricultural production in Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State Nigeria. The study is guided by objective of this research is to examine the socio-economic characteristics of fulani migration in the study area, also to examine the causes and effect of Fulani migration in the study area and the challenges faced by Fulani migration in the study area. The study adopted survey research design. Fifty (50) nomads were randomly selected from five communities in the study area. A structured questionnaire was used to elicit data from the respondents. The data gathered were subjected to analysis using frequencies and simple percentages. The result revealed that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that the rural banditry and cattle rustling can cause the migration of nomadic Fulani with 43(86%) while only 7(14%) of respondents strongly disagreed with statement among others. It was recommended that the relevant agencies of government and the civil society should work towards reviewing existing and developing new mechanisms for the monitoring and control of Nomadic Fulani migration across the Lere area due to low agricultural production.

**Keywords:** Fulani, Nomads, Migration, Agriculture, Agricultural Production

### INTRODUCTION

Nomadism is a lifestyle of people who do not live permanently in one place, but constantly move cyclically or periodically from one place to another. It is different from migration, which is not cyclical and involves a complete change of habitat. A herder is a shepherd who engages in pastoral agriculture, which involves the movement of the shepherd and his flock from one place to another in search of food and water. However, when this activity is related to nomadic movement, then we speak of "nomadic herding". Nomadic shepherds move in small tribal groups or extended families and do not have a home base. Nomads live in the arid and semi-arid areas of Africa, Asia, and Europe, as well as in the tundra regions of Asia and Europe. In Africa, nomads raise cattle, goats, sheep, and camels. In the tundra, domesticated reindeer are usually eaten. Other animals raised by nomadic herders include horses, musk oxen, and yaks. This practice is carried out primarily to produce food for the family and to meet the needs for clothing, shelter, and recreation, this is the simplest form of grazing.

The Fulani or Fulbe (Fula: Fulbe; French: Peul; Hausa: Fulani; Portuguese: Fula; Wolof: Pel; Bambara: Fulaw and Kanuri: Fulata) are one of the largest ethnolinguistic groups in Africa, numbering about 1,000 people in total. In 2017. The Fulani people are a mixture of Africans from Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa who live in the Sahel region. They are pastoral nomadic in nature. They are scattered and live in Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Ghana, Senegal, Guinea, Gambia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Togo, Mauritania, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Liberia and as far as Sudan. With the exception of Guinea, where the Fulani constitute an ethnic plurality (the largest single ethnic group) or about 40% or more of the total population, the Fulani are minorities in every country where they live. (Babagana Abubakar, 2017). Migrants are generally more concerned about the benefits they hope to gain from the move and less about the difficulties they will face in feeding their animals due to the migration process (Makinwa 2010).

Migration is the movement from one country, place or locality to another. They often live in small, temporary camps these can be quickly dismantled as they move in search of pasture and water for their herds. Because of the settlements distance from town and modern care is not readily available according to John Paul year (2000 to 2009). As a result, food security in Nigeria and other African countries has deteriorated over time, and many of them and their animals now suffer from hunger and malnutrition (Ijiako, 2010). Migrants are typically more concerned with the advantages they expect to achieve by relocating and less worried with the difficulties they will face in time of feeding animals as a consequence of the migration process (Makinwa 2010). Migration is a natural part of nomadic Fulani's life that has a long history. One of the main reasons of poor Fulani's employment, low agricultural production, and low rural people's quality of life is the lack of essential economic and social infrastructure like as water, roads, power, and health facilities owing to a rural-urban investment imbalance (Aliyu 2022).

According to Jacobs (2019), Agricultural production means product of any growing grass or crop attached to the surface of land, whether or not to the grass or crops, is to be sold commercially, and the product of any farm animals. Nigeria is home to about 19.5 million cattle, 72.5 million goats, 41.3 million sheep, 7.1 million pigs, 278,840 camels, 145 million chickens, 11.6 million ducks, 2.1 million roosters and 974,499 farm pigs. It is the largest livestock producer in West Africa (National Agricultural Sample Survey, 2011).

Despite of the advantage of agricultural production already mentioned there are so many problems which are so peculiar to the nomads in Lere Local Government Area in habitant viz. Inadequate of grazing land for the nomad, problem of disputes between nomad and the farmers, problem of water in the area, and lack of sufficient veterinary cares. The objectives of this research were to examine the socio-economic characteristics of fulani migration in the study area, examine the causes of fulani migration in the study area, examine the effect of Fulani migration on agricultural activities in the study area, examine the challenges faced by Fulani migration in the study area.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Lere is a local government area and town in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The local government area of Lera is 2,634 km<sup>2</sup> and the population is 339,740 according to the 2006 census. Its headquarters is in the city of Saminaka. The postal code of the area is 811. Lere local government area shares boundaries with Kauru local government area to the west and south, Kubau local government area to the north -west, Kano state to the north, Bauchi state to the east and Plateau state to the

southeast. respectively. The total study population consisted of all eleven (11) electoral units of Lera local government area, where nomadic people are migrants. Fifty (50) nomadic peoples were randomly selected. A total of 50 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents in the study area and the questionnaire was administered by the researchers. The data obtained were analyzed using a simple frequency distribution table and percentages.

**Table 1: Distribution of the respondents based on the socio-economic characteristics**

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	39	78
Female	11	22
Age		
20-25	17	34
30-35	22	44
35 and above	11	22
Marital status		
Single	13	26
Married	37	74
Occupation		
Farming	34	68
Civil servants	6	12
Business man	10	20
Household size		
1- 5	14	28
11 – 15	16	32
16-20	13	26
21 and above	7	14
Farming experience		
Less than 5 years	8	16
6-10 years	23	46
11-15 years	12	24
21 and above	7	14

Source: Field survey; 2024

Table 1 above shows the personal data information. The results reveals 39(78%) of the respondents are male while 11(22%) of the total respondents are female. This implies that male is more engaged in farming activities. The findings also indicated that 17(34%) of the farmers are between the age of 20-25 while 22(44%) are between the age of 30-35 and 11(22%) of the respondents are between the age of 35 and above. This reveals that most of the respondents in the study area fall within the middle age group. Also 37(74%) of the respondents were married and 13(26%) of the respondents are single. This work also indicates that 34(68%) of the

respondents are farmers, while 6(12%) of the respondent are civil servants and some of the respondent with 10(20%) are business man. It is also reveals that 14(28%) of the respondents are having house hold size of 1 – 5, while household size with 11 – 15 are having 16(32%), and 16 – 20 have 13(26%), and also the household size with 21 and above have 7(14%). The work also indicates that 8(16%) are having experience of less than 5 years and 23(46%) have farming experience of 6 – 10 years and some of the respondents are 7(14%) of 21 years and above.

**Table 2: Causes of Nomadic Fulani migration in the study area**

Variable	SA	A	SD	D	Frequency	A %	D%
Drought and desertification	11	33	1	5	50	88%	12 %
Loss of grazing reserves	12	21	3	14	50	66%	34%
Rural banditry and cattle rustling	30	13	2	5	50	86%	14%
Erosion of traditional mechanism	10	13	12	15	50	46%	54%
Indiscriminate bush burning	7	29	2	12	50	72%	28%

Sources: Field survey, 2024

Table 2 shows the causes of Nomadic Fulani migration in the study area. The result shows that 44(88%) of the respondents Agreed that drought and desertification while 6(12%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement. The result reveals that 34(66%) of the respondents agreed that the loss of grazing

reserves is among causes of nomadic Fulani migration while 17(34%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement in the study area. The respondents strongly agreed that the rural banditry and cattle rustling can cause the migration of nomadic Fulani with 43(86%) while only 7(14%) of

respondents strongly disagreed with statement. Also the result indicate that 23(46%) of the respondents agreed that erosion of traditional mechanism causes Fulani migration while 27(54%) of the respondents disagreed, this shows that many

of the respondents rejects the statement. The result shows that 36(72%) of the respondents agreed that indiscriminate bush burning can affect the agricultural production while only 14(28%) disagreed with the statement.

**Table 3: Effects of Fulani migration on agricultural activities in the Lere Local Government Area**

Variable	SA	A	SD	D	Frequency	A %	D%
Decreased productivity	33	12	0	5	50	90%	10%
Scarcity of agricultural products	9	21	7	13	50	60%	40%
Increase in price of agricultural production	28	13	2	7	50	82%	18%
Destruction of crops in farm	5	11	12	22	50	32%	68%
Displacement	7	29	2	12	50	72%	28%

Sources: Field survey, 2024

Table 3 shows the effects of Fulani migration on agricultural activities in the study area which indicate that 45(90%) of the respondents strongly agreed that nomadic Fulani have effect on decreased productivity, while 5(10%) of the respondent strongly disagreed with statement. The result shows that 30(60%) of the respondents agreed that the scarcity of agricultural products can be effect of Fulani migration, while 20(40%) of respondents disagreed with statement. The result reveals that 41(82%) of the respondents strongly agreed that

the increase in price of agricultural production, while 9(18%) of the respondents strongly disagreed with statement. The result also indicated that 16(32%) of the respondents agreed that the destruction of crops in farm can be the effect of migration, while majority of respondents disagreed statement with 34(68%). The result indicates that 36(72%) of the respondents agreed that the Displacement can be major effect of Fulani migration, while 14(28%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement.

**Table 4: Challenges faced by Fulani migration in the study area**

Variable	SA	A	SD	D	Frequency	A %	D%
Inadequate of grazing land for the nomad	10	26	1	13	50	72%	28%
Problem of disputes between nomad and the farmers	9	31	7	3	50	80%	20%
Problem of water in the area	28	13	2	7	50	82%	18%
Lack of sufficient veterinary cares	0	11	23	16	50	22%	78%
Lack of concern by the government respectively	7	29	2	12	50	72%	28%

Sources: Field survey, 2024

The result from the Table 4 shows that 36(72%) of the respondents agreed with the statement inadequate of grazing land for the nomad is among the challenges of Fulani migration while 14(28%) disagreed with the statement. And also the other result shows that 40(80%) of the respondents suggested the problem of disputes between nomad and the farmers to be the challenge cause by Fulani migration, while only 10(20%) of the respondent disagreed with the statement. The result implies that 41(82%) of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement problem of water in the area is among challenges of Fulani migration while 9(18%) disagreed with the statement. The work shows that none of the respondents strongly agreed with statement lack of sufficient veterinary cares to be challenges of Fulani migration while 11(22%) while 39(78%) strongly disagreed with the statement. The result indicates that 36(72%) of the respondents agreed that lack of concern by the government respectively to the nomadic Fulani migration causes the reduction of agricultural production, while only 14(28%) disagreed with the statement.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this research, it is concluded that the effect of nomadic Fulani migration on agricultural production causes and problems include insecurity, water shortage, high cost of labour, inadequate land, problems of pest and diseases, high cost of input, lack of improved varieties of seeds, lack of government concern. Majority of the respondents strongly agreed that the rural banditry and cattle rustling can cause the migration of nomadic Fulani with 30 (60%) while only 2 (4%) of respondents strongly disagreed with statement. The result reveals that 28 (56%) of the respondents strongly agreed that

the increase in price of agricultural production. The result shows that 31 (62%) of the respondents suggested the problem of disputes between nomad and the farmers to be the challenge cause by Fulani migration, while only 3(6%) of the respondent disagreed with the statement.

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