CGIAR's Evidence and Solutions to Tackle Farmer-Herder Conflicts

Climate variability is increasingly affecting earth systems. Rainfall patterns have become erratic characterized by reducing intensity which directly impacts crop and livestock systems in low and middle-income countries. This has seen an increase in farmer-herder conflicts, particularly in East and West Africa, due to dwindling pasture and competition for scarce natural resources between sedentary farming and mobile pastoralist communities. Transhumance (the seasonal migration of herds) plays a key role in these conflicts, especially where property rights are not clearly defined, as land use conflicts often play out when the land use balance between transhumance and sedentary farming collapses.

Systematic scoping review of literature on farmer-herder conflicts

Conflicts between farmers and herders (pastoralists and others) have significantly increased attention over recent years. However, a recent systematic scoping literature review has highlighted that despite this attention, in-depth case studies on the causes and drivers of these conflicts are few. The review has also highlighted that there is a significant gap in understanding the role of women and youth in these conflicts, including the heterogeneous impacts of the conflicts, with neither appearing in studies undertaken to date. The review is available here.

Study on causes and impacts of farmer-herder conflicts with an emphasis on understanding linkages to livestock production/agrifood systems

There is a significant gap in studies that focus on the role of women and youth and how these groups are impacted by farmer-herder conflicts. In collaboration with the FCM initiative and SPARC two case studies will be undertaken in Africa (one in Nigeria carried out by FCM and one in Sudan carried out by SPARC with scoping being carried out in Mali) on the causes and underlying drivers of farmer-herder conflicts. The role of youth and women in these conflicts will be given particular attention – for Nigeria complimenting the broader women's study as below.

Regional dialogues on farmer-herder conflicts

Following the studies on farmer-herder conflicts regional dialogues will be carried out in partnership with at least regional bodies – Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA) – to discuss the results, policy implications and any remaining research

gaps. This is part of ongoing capacity building, advocacy, and engagement with these regional bodies.

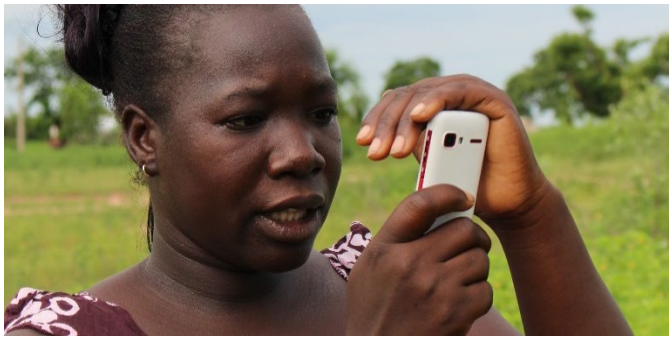
Spatial analysis of the nexus between conflict, land use change and pastoralism

The Climate Security Observatory (CSO) will be expanded to include mapping of potential livestock-related conflict hotspots. Layers on livestock-related conflicts, climate stressors, transhumance routes, water points, livestock markets, and pastoral infrastructure will be overlaid as an entry point for analyzing potential trigger points for livestock-related conflicts and their spatio-temporal distribution. This, in combination with additional qualitative and quantitative studies (including those utilizing crowdsourcing techniques to dynamically monitor the performance of markets and rangeland/pasture conditions and experiences with conflicts) can serve as a basis for negotiating and agreeing on access and control around water points, land use and pastoral infrastructures.

Study on impacts of farmer-herder conflicts on women's livelihoods in Southwest Nigeria

Persistent conflicts between farmers and herders have had negative consequences for communities. However, little is known about exactly how the conflicts affect incomes, livelihoods, and farming activities for nearby communities—and more specifically, how women are affected. Additionally, there is a significant gap in understanding the specific strategies communities and other stakeholders may be undertaking to mitigate the effects of conflict on livelihoods and which local actors may perceive as successful in mediating local solutions. We are undertaking a case study covering 450 wards in three states of rural, Southwest Nigeria on the effects of farmer-herder conflicts on women's livelihoods and the specific strategies that women may engage in to protect themselves from conflict risk and to mitigate conflict locally. The study will be relying on a survey of approximately 5800 women (ages 18-50).

KAZNET - Refinement of the Climate Security Module in KAZNET



KAZNET[1] is a weekly frequency survey that leverages the number of people with smartphones and uses crowdsourcing techniques to collect repeated information on markets, households, and rangelands in remote regions of Kenya. These remote areas, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), are characterized by multiple forms of conflicts, which are sometimes exacerbated by changing climatic patterns. As a result, we identified the need for a module to collect information on climate-conflict dynamics in Northern Kenya, particularly looking at herder-farmer conflict risks. For 2023, the plan is to refine the climate security module we created in 2022 for high-frequency data collection. The module, once integrated into the KAZNET, will collect data on trends in conflicts and how climate is affecting socio-economic drivers of conflict among pastoral communities as well as among herder-farmer groups.

CSST tool application - East Africa (Kenya)

The Climate Security Sensitivity Tool (CSST) is an ex-ante programming assessment tool for conflict-sensitive and peace-responsive climate action encompassing all production systems, including livestock ones. A pilot study on an adaptation intervention related to livestock systems generated useful recommendations for preventing conflicts amongst pastoralists and contributing to peace co-benefits. This tool will be deployed again on a livestock climate adaptation program in East Africa to assess the peace potential of interventions that target pastoral communities.

1 The name is derived from a play on the Swahili words kazi (work or job), net (internet) and kaskazini (north) (see https://www.drylandinnovations.com/kaznet), because the mobile application requires contributors from northern Kenya counties to perform tasks for paying via their mobile phone.