

SDC 2019 Annual Meeting Abstracts

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Title: Agricultural Land Use Effects of Terrorism



The incidence of violent attacks by pastoralist has grown in recent years, raising questions about the root causes as well as its relatedness to other forms of violent conflicts. In the case of Nigeria, where Boko Haram insurgents have perpetrated violent terrorist attacks over the past decade, Fulani Herdsmen attacks have grown in terms of numbers and casualty. The causes of terrorism have been well studied in the literature and so The incidence of violent attacks by pastoralist has grown in recent years, raising questions about the root causes as well as its relatedness to other forms of violent conflict. In the case of Nigeria, where Boko Haram insurgents have perpetrated violent terrorist attacks over the past decade, Fulani Herdsmen attacks have grown in terms of numbers and casualty. The growing incidence of violent attacks by pastoralist raises questions about its relatedness to other forms of violent conflict. In Nigeria, Fulani Herdsmen attacks have grown in number and casualty, vis-à-vis Boko-Haram attacks. No empirical study has examined the relatedness of terrorist and pastoral violence, despite its implications for conflict prevention and development. In this paper, we explain the possible links and further apply causality tests to event data on Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen attacks. We find one-way causality between the two, which we explain based on reduced grazing resource availability in the North, spillover grazing in more-hostile areas, and increased angst amongst herdsmen which increases the propensity for violence. Further finding of a short-lived relationship questions the validity of more complex theories (e.g., cooperation, indoctrination and radical influence). Our evidence-based insights are useful to policymakers that are considering development options to address the conflict while improving herdsmen opportunities.