

# **INSTITUTIONS FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION AMONG SETTLED FULANI AGRO-PASTORALISTS IN SOUTHWEST NIGERIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study identifies institutions for organizing collective action among settled Fulani agro-pastoralists in southwest Nigeria and examines their functions, processes and tools for fostering collective action. Four Fulani communities were selected purposively in Ekiti State; data were collected from 55 settled pastoralists through informal interviews and focus group discussion. The analysis of data was based on qualitative analysis and presentation. Two major forms of local institutions were identified: Fulani traditional council (FTC) and Fulani herders' association. FTC is a leadership institution and has three levels: the Jawmu saare (the head of the household), Mawdo (camp leader) and Ardo (community leader). These function in a way that set goals for collective action are achieved, through negotiation and conflict resolution. A normalized probability scoring on the effectiveness of collective action in securing access to land reveals 89% probability for gaining more access to land through negotiation, 68% probability through conflict management and 90% through payment of dues. The processes for collective action were hierarchical and participatory and meetings and financial contribution were observed as the major tool for organizing collective action functions. The institutions will become more relevant to socioeconomic development of pastoral communities if their activities can be coordinated towards policy negotiation with local governments, advocacy efforts, and livelihoods support and development. Efforts by local government authorities and extension/veterinary services to supporting these institutions for service provision is desired and their leadership potential should be further developed in the areas of political engagements.