

Land tenure conflicts and its influence on Food security and Rural livelihoods in the North west region of Cameroon: The case of Mezam division

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Abstract— Land is construed as a vital means of survival and hence the primary reason why people and communities compete (vie) to exert control over it. This study sets to contribute to conflicts resolution through an understanding of how conflicts over land influence food security and rural livelihoods in Mezam. Land conflicts often have extensive negative effects on economic, social, spatial and ecological development. This is especially true in Mezam division, where land market institutions are weak, opportunities for economic gain by illegal action are widespread and many poor people lack access to land. Data were collected using a semi structured questionnaire and focus group discussions were organized where possible. A total of 200 questionnaires were administered to both farmers and grazers in Mezam, Santa, Bali, Tubah and Bafut. These were done through face to face interviews, discussion with graziers and farmers representatives, focus groups as well as field observation so as to permit us carry out an ample information from the field and have an in-depth study of the conflict situation in Mezam. These data were introduced into SPSS version 24.0 and analyzed using descriptive statistics, frequencies, charts and graphs. Common conflicts recorded in the area in Mezam are farmer-grazer conflicts and land ownership. Regarding the effects of conflicts on food security, 60% of respondents attested disruption of livestock activities and food production cycle, 52.5% mentioned shortages in food supply resulting to high prices in the local markets. Conflicts also resulted to the flee of the local farm labour force. It was also found out that conflicts affected rural development projects in the study area such as micro credit institutions, bridges, roads, electrification projects, storage facilities, markets and portable water. This will facilitate communication between the villagers in the affected areas and improve on food production and accessibility. It was suggested that one of the ways to resolve tenure conflicts in the area was for the administrative authorities to demarcate boundaries or map out farm and grazing lands between the various villages and also facilitate the process of issuing land titles. Looking at the existing policies, legal and institutional framework discussed in this study, I can say that I have been able to identify some commissions and policies put in place by the Government of Cameroon governing land administration and management that is sufficient in strengthening the tenure security of the local population in Mezam if respected and put in practice. It was also recommended that the administrative authorities should facilitate the issuing of land titles to the local population and demarcate farming and grazing lands between villages that decision making should always consider the actors on the field and be transparent too.

Keywords— land tenure, conflicts, food security, seed security, rural livelihoods, rural development.

I. INTRODUCTION

In West Africa, unlike other regions, existing land problems have less to do with past land expropriation by settlers than with the insecurity of tenure and the effect that this has on the effective exploitation of land (Toulmin and Long bottom, 1997). Under customary law, traditional leaders (chiefs) remain the dominant and de facto land owners. It is through them that community members obtain access to land resources held by them in trust but, once allocated, the land comes under the control of the family in most cases. Whether people would also say that the chief owns the land is questionable but this does not necessarily stop them from behaving as though they do. When most West African countries inherited distorted tenure laws from colonial governments, the State assumed greater powers of land ownership at independence, granting itself rights over land sales and leasing. Consequently, customary land tenure practices have been weakened, and are no longer adequately recognized by either the State or rural communities (DFID, 1999). Reconciliation of differences in land tenure policies, compounded by the influence of Islamic laws, have generally led to more confusion and conflicts between land users (Toulmin and Long bottom, 1997). Migration from Northern West Africa to coastal areas has led to a generation of major land ownership conflicts. Ironically, it was the indigenous people who brought in migrants at the beginning to help in the tree crop production systems and this worked well until land began to be scarce and the migrant population became too numerous to have political influence.

In some parts of Central Africa, the scarcity of productive lands is the source of conflicts. In countries like Chad and the Central African Republic, scarcity of land coupled with politically related issues are the roots of the civil unrest. The problem of refugees, created by years of civil unrest, has compounded conflicts over land. Disputes over ownership of resources and climate change are also responsible for farmer-grazer conflicts (Sone, 2012; Arias and Ibanez, 2012; Ajuwon, 2004; Fasona and Omojola, 2005). For instance, the migration of the Fulani to the South due to drought into far distances and even across national boundaries results in farmer-grazer conflicts (Fonjong et al., 2010).

However, in Cameroon when addressing the issue of conflicts, one can say that a conflict as defined by sociologists is a social fact in which at least two parties are involved and whose origins are differences either in interests or in the social position of the parties (Imbusch 1999). It should therefore be

noted that a land use conflict can be defined as a social fact in which at least two parties or individuals are involved, the roots of which are different interests over property rights to land, the right to use the land, manage the land, generate an income from the land, exclude others from it and the right to compensation for it. Land use conflict therefore can be understood as a misuse, restriction or dispute over property rights to land (wehrmann, 2005).

According to Havnevik (2005), this problem revolves around land ownership in Cameroon, which is a major source of conflict. Land is construed as a vital means of survival and hence the primary reason why people and communities compete (vie) to exert control over it. The court systems in Cameroon are deluged with land related conflicts. In fact, the frequency of land disputes is so common in the North West of Cameroon that it is featured in the USAID country report. All customary power relations, social control, consumption, distribution and of course, the management of land and natural resource here begin and end with a Fon, (the legitimate traditional leader of any given chiefdom), and the complex palace institutions that are associated with royalty. In the study site like elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, the traditional perception was that "Land is not a commodity. The agricultural activities and other livelihood options are affected by various factors (climatic conditions, markets, infrastructure, and physical conditions), unequal access to land and insecure land tenure have the most profound effect on the livelihoods of smallholders in Cameroon.

There is hardly a scrap of the earth's surface where someone or other has not laid claim, so almost every piece of land has an owner be it at individual or a group of individuals or a state. The concept of land tenure refers to the conditions under which such land is held (AMUNGWA, 2013). Tenure systems define and regulate how people, communities, and others gain access to natural resources, whether through formal law or informal arrangements. The rules of tenure determine who can use which resources, for how long, and under what conditions. They may be based on written policies and laws or on unwritten customs and practices (FAO, 2012). Strategies to increase tenure security must recognize women's vital role in food production and address gender-based constraints along the value chain (USAID, 2012), including improving their access to resources such as land, credit, and productivity-enhancing inputs and services.

II. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Geographical location

The North West region has a total land surface area of 17300 km square lies within the Western highlands of Cameroon. It falls between latitude 5° 40' and 7° to the North of the equator and longitude 9° 45' and 11° 10' to the east of the Greenwich meridian. Most of the lands are located in altitudes above 900m above sea level. The region is bordered to the east by the West and Adamawa regions, to the

North by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to the South and West by the South West Region. The study area is characterized by high relief, cool temperatures, and heavy rainfall. The plateau experiences an equatorial climate of Cameroon type. It has two major seasons: A long wet season of nine months and a short dry season of three months. During the wet season, humid prevailing monsoon winds blow in from the west and lose their moisture upon hitting the region's mountains. The rainfall there per year ranges from 1000mm to 2000mm. The high elevations give the area a cooler climate which favours human activities such as agriculture.

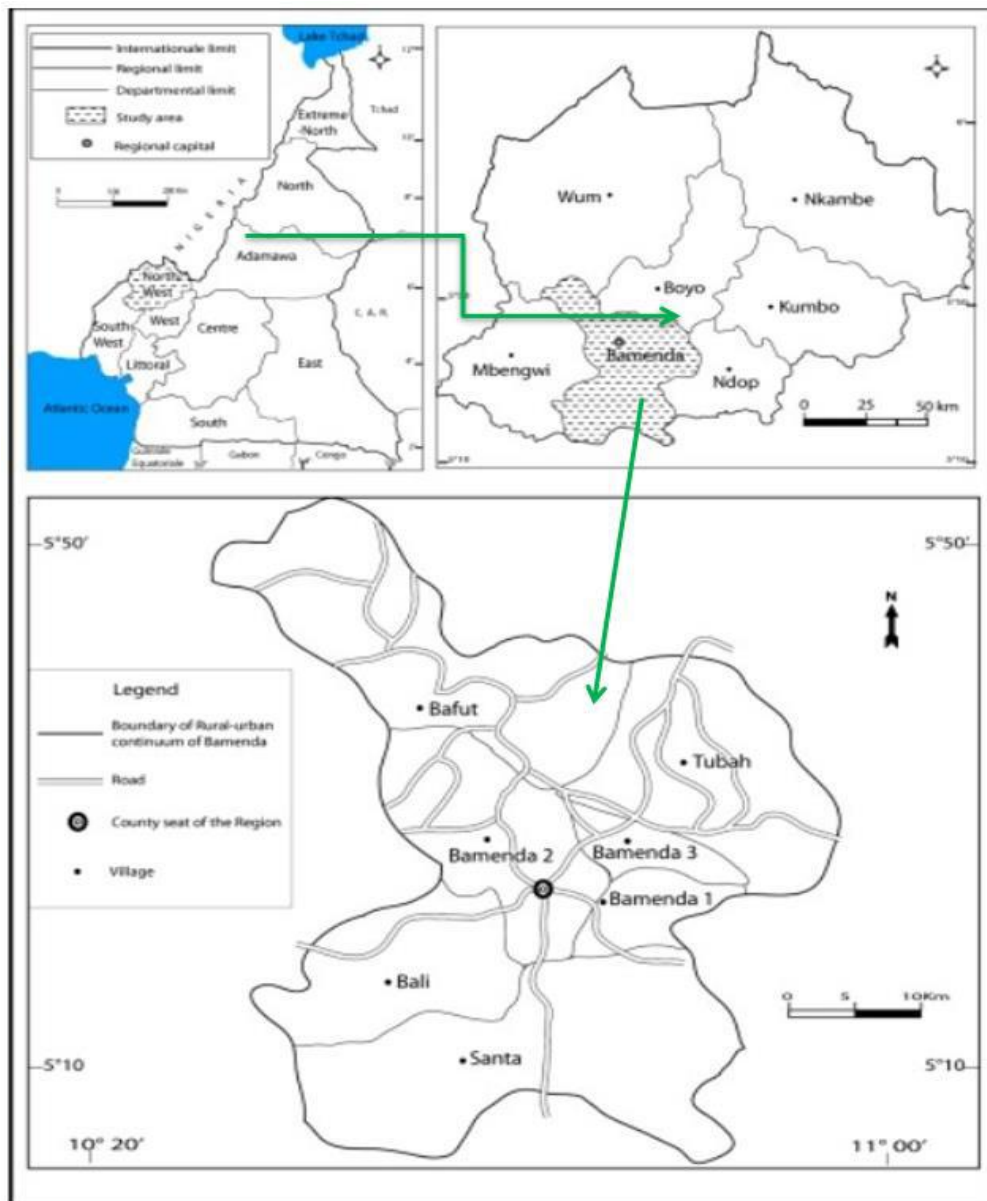


Fig 1. Map of Cameroon showing Mezam division

Mezam division is found in the mountainous areas of Cameroon. The majority of the land is situated above 1000m altitude. The topography of the region is characterized by extremely varied relief composed of mountains, escarpments, valleys, plains and plateau. Mountainous and high plain zones are above 1000m. The plains are rich in alluvial deposits which is a potential for intensive agriculture. Cattle rearing and water catchments are found mostly at the higher plains. The altitude stretches from 200m as in Mbembe Ako up >3000m as in mount Oku all found in the North West region.

This region is characterized by a sudano-sahelian vegetation cover which is mostly grass. However, in some plains like Ako and Fura Awa, the vegetation is essentially forest. In all, the vegetation has degraded much due to high precipitation, altitude and human activities in agriculture, livestock rearing and deforestation. Vegetation in this area falls within the grassland region. It comprises of shrubs, stunted trees, typical of a savanna region. Some of the indigenous trees have been reduced to a vulnerable level to near extinction due to exploitation for timber and fuel wood use. Also there are grasses such as the andropogon Spear grass on the bare rocks. The grass dries up in the in the dry season while the trees shed their leaves. People now grow eucalyptus to serve various needs. Various fruit trees are also highly grown around hill tops and slopes and elephant grass (*Pennisitum purperum*) in the valleys and lowland. In parts of the heartland of Mezam, there are tall deciduous trees of the rain forest type's examples Volcanga Africana, Anona senegallensis, Firus gomerata, and Kola acuminata (to show the high equatorial forest trees once grew there). Grass and trees grow luxury along the valleys of streams and rivers during the rainy season where there are outcrops and especially most homesteads. Thus in most, the original vegetation has been replaced by patchwork of cultivated crops; in others by an exploited and depleted vegetation cover; while in others there is nothing but bare rocks showing that fire and the axe have played a great part in changing the vegetation cover. However, there is still a natural forest in Bafut.

2.1.2 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

2.1.3 Sampling techniques and size

However, in the present study, we used the simple random sampling technique to arrive at our objectives. This technique was solicited because it is the most popular method for choosing a sample among population for a wide range of

purposes. In this sampling, each member is equally likely to be chosen as part of the sample since it eliminates bias from the selection procedure. It also guarantees representativeness of the sample size. The target area (population) of the study was Mezam, division. We worked with a target population of 400 households by selecting at least 100 households from each subdivision. This is because of the need to assess all the chosen subdivisions. At the end of the field survey, we were able to come out with 50 sampled households thus giving us a total of 200 people in the four localities.

III. TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES OF DATA COLLECTION

3.1 Questionnaire

Questionnaires are very important tools for collecting data in all sociological studies and even in other disciplines. In this study, the questionnaire was made up of both open and closed questions. It was used to collect information from the local farmers and grazers in Mezam so as to gather ample information about conflicts and food security. The questionnaire was structured according to the various research objectives to provide a certain degree of consistency and facilitate analyses. The questionnaire we used in this study was structured and divided into four sections as follows:

Section one aimed to bring out the respondents background information, section two aimed at identifying the common tenure related conflicts occurring in the area, section three was to examine the causes of these conflicts and the degree of their severity on food security and finally section four which aimed at looking at the effects of these conflicts on food security and rural livelihoods. It should be noted that the questionnaires were elaborated in English language and most of the questions were translated into Pidgin English and Fulfulde language during administration on the field to ease data collection from all of our respondents.

The focus of this study is on land tenure conflict and their impact on food security and rural livelihoods in the North West Region (case of Mezam) of Cameroon. The choice of Mezam in this study was purposive. This is because Bamenda is the seat of the North-West Region and attracts a large population from the rest of the divisions and acts as a gateway to West region receiving a lot of immigrants from the rest of the country. Land use pattern becomes very complex and highly competitive, for construction, for farming and for

livestock rearing. Livestock and farming activities are limited around the town giving way to urban development.

Samples were drawn randomly from the respondents constituted in this study. These were groups of both registered

farmers and grazers under the Regional Delegations of MINADER and MINEPIA in Mezam. We have been able to draw these samples from the registered groups which were accessible and available for interview as shown on table below.

Table1: Distribution of samples size according to locality in Mezam Division

Division	Sub division	Registered crop farmers contacted	Sample size	Registered grazers contacted	Sample size	Total per locality
Mezam	Santa	60	25	50	25	50
	Bafut	50	25	70	25	50
	Bali	100	50	60	0	50
	Tubah	50	25	25	25	50
Total		260	125	205	75	200

3.2 Focus group discussion

Focus Group Discussions (FGD) are very important in to this study because it permitted us to deal directly with the local population targeted. Again, we had the chance to have all stake holders represented in the discussion thus making it easy and fast for us to gather information in a short time. Focus Group Discussions (FGD) for our respondents who consisted of both pastoralists and crop farmers with 10-15 members per group were held for selected house hold heads to obtain information about tenure conflicts, their causes, resulting effects and how they are handled at the local level or within the communities. Hence, 2 of such groups were held in the conflict hot spots of Santa subdivision (Pinyin, Awing localities) and Tubah subdivision (Bambili and Babanki Tungoh localities). Comments, opinions and suggestions were gathered from the different elders as well as some organisations involved in conflicts management such MBOSCUDA and Village Aids experts.

3.3 DATA ANALYSES

Quantitative data were analyzed into frequency and cross-tabulations using the SPSS (statistical package for social sciences version 24.0). On the other hand, qualitative data were analyzed manually and used with the quantitative data to triangulate and enrich our research work. It should be noted that these raw data were codified, keyed into the computer primarily through the aid of Microsoft excel 2010 verified and then imported into SPSS for final analysis.

3.4 Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive method was used for this study. This method is concerned with the description of data and characteristics about a population. The descriptive method here attempts to describe, explain and interpret the conditions of the present situation. That is its purpose is to examine a phenomenon that is occurring at a specific place and time such as the land tenure conflicts we studied in Mezam. This method is appropriate for this study because the study is concerned with the assessment of perceptions and documentation of land tenure conflicts and food security. The descriptive statistics here make use of frequency distribution and percentages. To facilitate our interpretation, the results of this study were illustrated through the use of tables, pie charts, diagrams and bar charts.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Common conflicts in Mezam division

The impact of land tenure on food security and sustainable natural resource management is complex. Land conflicts often have extensive negative effects on economic, social, spatial and ecological development. This is especially true in Mezam division, where land market institutions are weak, opportunities for economic gain by illegal action are widespread and many poor people lack access to land. The table below shows the most common conflicts recorded recurrently in Mezam.

Table 2: Common conflicts occurring in Mezam

Types of conflicts	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Farmer-grazer	78	39
Grazer-grazer	58	29
Landownership	64	32
Total	200	100
Witnesses of conflicts in study area		
Eye witness respondents	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Yes	158	79
No idea about conflicts	42	21
Total	200	100
Occurrence of farmer-grazer	79	39.5
Land ownership conflicts	78	39
Grazer-grazer conflicts	43	21.5
Total	200	100

Farmer-grazer conflict

From the presentation of our findings on the table above, we noted that Farmer-grazer conflicts usually occurring between ethnic Fulani cattle herders and non-Fulani subsistence farmers' act as the main conflicts recorded in the study area with about 39% of our respondents confirming that. This is a general phenomenon around agro-pastoral areas in the world and the North West Region of Cameroon in particular. However, from the table above we notice that 79% of the total population are aware of the occurrence of conflicts within the area as against 21% who have no idea about conflicts and from the results, it appeared that farmer-grazer conflicts occur more frequent in Mezam than landownership conflicts even though both are recorded as major threats. It should equally be noted that both farmer grazer and land ownership conflicts occurring in Mezam are as a result of *the expansionist and dominant tendencies of some groups of individuals, a community as well as certain influential elites' over land in the area. Tenure problems in the region in particular are related to the lack of documentary evidence (land titles and certificates).*

Grazer-grazer conflict

It can equally be observed that this conflictual phenomenon is also recurrent among the herders themselves as about 29% of our respondents said they usually witness conflicts related to two grazing groups living in the area. These disputes are principally due to competition over the use of land and water resources for agricultural and non-agricultural use increased in human and animal population as well as resource access rights, inadequacy of grazing resources, values, cultures and beliefs. Grazer-grazer conflicts are less recorded in Mezam as presented on the table above only 21.5% of respondents confirmed this case. This has hence been confirmed in the findings of Rashid, 2012; Kelsey & Knox, 2012 in the same region.

Landownership conflict

However, the results presented on the table above indicate that conflicts related to land ownership and certification were another form of conflicts that are commonly observed in Mezam as 32% of the respondents affirmed this. The causes of these conflicts range from lack of clear boundaries between farming and grazing zone; extensive farming and grazing practices, with limited yield and productivity per unit area and poor urban planning efforts invested.

Table 3: How conflicts affect food security and rural livelihoods

	Effects of conflicts on	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Rank
1	Food production	120	60	1
2	Food supply	105	52.5	2
3	Flee of Labour force	95	47.5	3
4	Transformation of farm and livestock products	80	40	4

Food production

From the table above, 60% of our respondents attested that food production is the most affected during conflicts. This is so because during conflicts, the agricultural as well as livestock activities are disrupted. Areas of large production experience destruction, seizing of crops and animals. However, our respondents related the effects of conflicts on food production as a threat to food security and rural livelihood of the local population. Production usually drops substantially in most cases during conflicts due to adverse effects on labor supply, access to land and access to credit and/or direct effects on capital such as theft and destruction of assets. Observing micro-level responses to conflict exposure in situ is particularly challenging, but there is growing empirical evidence on the coping strategies of conflict-affected individuals and households to protect their productivity, livelihoods and food security. This is related to the fact that about 70% of the population of the North West region in general and that of Mezam in particular rely on agriculture for their food supply. These results however, complement those of Rockmore 2015 on impact of conflicts on food safety.

However, looking at the effects of conflicts on the livestock sector, the sampled population linked this to a decline in livestock number among the grazers. This can be explained by the fact that the human population is continuously growing and needs to exploit the available land which is becoming limited so some grazers have to sell part of the stock to obtain capital to buy land, food and other material assets. Other respondents attributed this decline to incidences of cattle diseases, and the insufficient poor quality pastures which result due to conflicts and pressure on the limited land. Livestock has to adapt to the new systems of grazing as land is reducing. The rangelands in the region too are as well becoming counter-productive in terms of quality

pasture as they are dominated by invasive species and weeds such as chromolaena odorata and fern grass. Another condition in the study area is related to the breed of cattle reared because most of the pastoralists still keep the local breeds with little or no innovation and they mostly rely on ethno-medicines for the health of their live stocks making disease control very difficult

Food supply

The data presented on the table above revealed that 52.5% of our respondents said conflicts affect food supply and therefore create food shortages. This disrupts both the upstream input markets and the downstream output markets thus this situation turns to deter food production, commercialization and stock management. This is so because whenever there are conflicts in an area, farmers do not have access to their farms and therefore the cropping cycle is also affected. This equally affects the prices of food stuffs as well as livestock in the local markets as crops quality are poor coupled with poor farm to market roads that make it difficult to transport the little available food stuffs to the markets. This therefore has a direct effect on food availability and accessibility.

Flee of farm labour force

However, 47.5% of our respondents attested that during conflicts, there is little or no follow up in farming activities thus crops cannot be planted on time or at all, weeded or harvested. The flee of the farming population to more safer areas results to the disruption of farming calendar and also leads to low yield.

Transformation of farm and livestock products

However, when looking at the level of crops transformation and processing, we found out that technologies that exist for the transformation of cereals, grain legumes, root/tubers, and leafy vegetables into a broad variety of local products include drying, milling and fermentation. In Mezam,

this percentage is low because most of the farmers are not involved in transformation of farm products and those who transform their products use rudimentary technologies and rely on local and inefficient implements which yield inconsistent and unhygienic products. Such products have precarious shelf stability and eating qualities and are limited only to certain socio-cultural groupings. Farmers' access to existing improve technologies is limited by inadequate capital and information.

Packaging is still depended on traditional technologies and materials such as leaves, sticks and wood. Even at that level, only a small portion of the food intended for the market is packaged. A greater bulk is marketed in open utensils with the obvious attendant health, environmental and regulatory problems. Improvements through the use of metal, plastic and

improved wood packaging materials has been timid and limited to private concerns, public corporations and others who have both the information and capital. Although there is no known simple inexpensive technology that by itself makes a profound impact on the post-harvest sector of food crops in Mezam.

4.2 Effects of conflicts on rural development projects or social amenities in the study area

This objective is to permit assess the effects of conflicts on rural development, social amenities and other cultural dimensions of conflicts on food security. Therefore, we are required to examine areas where a majority of the residents are engaged in agriculture in a broad sense (including livestock farming, forestry, and fisheries). The table below shows the results of our findings as can be seen.

Table 4: Improvement of conditions of small scale farmers' business

	Projects(Amenities)	Frequency(F)	Percentage (%)
I	Microfinance	150	75
II	Infrastructure	100	50
III	Sustainable management	120	60

Microcredit

Microfinance is an effective tool used to improve farmers' access to capital for business in rural areas. From the results presented on the table above, 75% of our respondents attested that, many donor agencies implement projects related to microcredit in their areas but these microcredits usually stop functioning during conflicts for fear of aggression from the conflicting parties. Many of our respondents attested that there exist several microfinance institutions within the study area that support them in their development projects especially in Bafut, Bamenda centre, Santa and other neighbouring urban centres. But these institutions have always been victims of aggression during conflicts rendering them ineffective in supporting rural development projects.

Sustainable management

The results on the table above revealed that 60% of the respondents said support for infrastructure such as rural electrification and local transportation of farm produce to the ready markets, maintenance of available storage facilities and

the methods used in storing the products, and the recovery of investment costs is a key in expanding the impact of facilities. However, all these facilities experience a rupture before their final phase especially in conflicts hot spots. Some of these infrastructures are usually burnt down and the few existing ones are not well maintained.

Infrastructure

However, 50% of the respondents affirmed that infrastructures such as warehouses used as storage facilities, farm to market roads, bridges are necessary for local people to engage in efficient productive activities, as well as the development of economic infrastructure is also important. Adding to non-agricultural income generation activities and/or improvement of agricultural productivity generates synergy effects of infrastructure development and income generation in most cases. From our field observations, we noticed that all the localities covered during this study suffer from poor infrastructures especially in terms of farm to market roads, storage facilities and portable water projects.

4.3 Land tenure mitigation methods

In this objective we are required to critically look at the existing laws, methods and other means of conflicts

management in Mezam division of the North West region. The table below shows some indigenous techniques of conflicts resolution.

Table 5: Indigenous /local techniques of conflicts management

Effects of conflicts	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Dialogue plat forms	55	27.
Guards/ surveillance schemes	15	7.5
Back wires	60	30
Community courts	20	10
Fines and Indemnities	50	25
Total	200	99.0

From the table, above we noticed that 30% of the respondents said they opt for back wires that help to protect their crops and avoid clashes with the other party. In areas like Santa where huge number of animals are kept alongside farms, our respondents said it is the best means they can use to prevent crop damage. Therefore contrariwise to the western cultures, indigenous African communities in general and Mezam in particular maintain social order through inherent sanctions such as heavy fines or exclusion.

However, 27.5% of the respondents in areas where it is difficult to build fences with back wires, prefer to settle their differences through dialogue platforms without necessarily going through disputes. This method ranks as the most popular dispute resolution tool in the traditional Cameroonian society. Here, the administrators of mediation are usually lineage title holders, hereditary elders, traditional warriors, chiefs. This tool or system of indigenous conflict management is usually efficient because it avoids explicit parade of power, win-lose mindset, social blemishes and acrimony that are normally linked to adjudication. It is in this same line that **Behre, 2012** stated that traditional African indigenous conflict resolution systems characteristically focus on agreements through deliberations, negotiations and reflections to ascertain facts and clear up problems.

V. CONCLUSION

The major concern of this section has been to draw a conclusion of the main discussions of the study and also formulate a number of recommendations relating to the

various stakeholders. It is now widely accepted that land and natural resource issues can contribute to the outbreak of violent conflict, contribute to perpetuating or prolonging conflict. If this is left unaddressed, peace building efforts can even lead to renewed conflict.

However, we have brought out and also discussed the causes of the antagonistic sentiments among the local population in Mezam Division of the North West region of Cameroon. Regarding the major conflicts recorded in the area of study, their causes, farmer-grazers conflicts and land ownership disputes were recorded as the main conflicts in the area. Disputes over farmland was considered as the most common factor resulting to land related conflicts. This is accepted due to the fact that 55.33% of the respondents cited this factor as being very common in the cause of disputes in the study area. In trying to rate the degree of severity or seriousness of these conflicts on food security in the study, 35% of the respondents said conflicts led to severe consequences in their locality and that high population density appeared to be the potential effect of land tenure conflicts on food security as 36.5% of our respondents identified it among other factors. It was also noticed that conflicts seriously affect food security and rural livelihoods because about 60% of the population mentioned a reduction in the number of livestock as a result of conflicts and about 35% said it led to a decline in crop yield over time. It has been clearly visible from the analyses that the conflict is shaped by several factors.

From the findings of the study, we have been able to see how these land related conflicts occur in the region and

their effects on rural development projects. We have seen from the results of this study all the covered localities have access to schools, health facilities, and electricity to a certain level while some such portable water, roads, storage facilities and so forth are available and become less accessible to the local population especially during conflicts.

As seen from our findings, the causes of the conflict are a result of the expansionist and dominant tendencies of some groups of individuals, a community as well as certain influential elites' over land in the area. The findings from the data collected indicated that the increase of the population lies behind the conflict between most villages in Mezam division. This, as already discussed in the previous chapter we understood that land disputes in the study area as reported by most of the respondents were considered to be a significant tenure security issue since its value is low and agricultural activities in the area are still subsistence in nature.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

However, the goal of this research work has been to throw more light on how to manage tenure conflicts so as to improve on agricultural productivity and food security of the local livelihoods. It is in this light that we formulated the following recommendations.

To the crop farmers and grazers

In view of the rapid population pressure, competition over land ownership, environmental factors and declining farmlands there is the need to adopt improved farming techniques. The farmers should adopt intensive cultivation by using improved seeds and farm inputs.

They should also grow leguminous plants to improve the soil fertility in case fertilizers are expensive to purchase.

To the Government

It was also recommended to the administrative authorities should facilitate the issuing of land titles to the local population and demarcate farming and grazing lands between villages that decision making should always consider the actors on the field and be transparent too.

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