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**HERDSMEN AND FOOD INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**.

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**ABSTRACT**

Worldwide, there are nations who produce the highest number of beef and also possess the highest number of agriculturists and both groups are living peacefully. However, Nigeria is the reverseeven with the less quantity of beef production and farmers in the country, the rancorous clashes between Fulani herdsmen and farmers are the major reason Nigeria is experiencing food insecurity*.* This study is designed to assess the effects of Fulani herdsmen attacks on food security in Nigeria. The study highlighted the effects of the Fulani herdsmen attack, the causes of herdsmen-farmers clashes and the strategies to be adopted to ensure food security in Nigeria. Cross-sectional and exploratory research designs with qualitative and quantitative methods (Mixed methods) were adopted. Both primary and secondary data were used in the course of this study. The study also made use of Chi- square test to analyse the hypothesis. Three theories were used to justify the research work and these include: Broken Window Theory, Frustration-Aggression Theory and Situational Crime Prevention Theory. This study discovered that the herdsmen-farmers clashes are due to the destruction of farmlands, lack of grazing reserves or ranching among others. Also, the study found that the effects of Fulani herdsmen attacks in the country have led to food insecurity because there is food unavailability and emergence of hunger. Hence, the study recommends the enactment of anti- grazing laws, engagement of the rulers and traditional leaders in ensuring swift resolution of conflicts between the Fulani herders and farmers. The findings are significant as they show that the establishment of cattle ranching for the herders will help dissolve the conflict presently ongoing between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers that has adversely affected the nation’s food security.