

Wetland Farmers and Conflict Indices in Oyo State Fadama II Project

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Abstract

Fadama land is otherwise called wetland. The land is characterized by the presence of water in the most parts of the year. One hundred and fifty wetland farmers were randomly selected for study between September 2004 and October 2005.

The selection was done in such a way that all local government areas were represented. The study basically was on identifiable indices of conflicts and frequency of occurrence within and between groups. The causes of conflict were observed in the following decreasing order of occurrence; Trespassing, nomadic activities, land tenure, lack of adequate knowledge about the use of wetlands (LAK), inheritance. It was also noted that WITHIN group conflicts were far less in occurrence compared to BETWEEN group conflicts. It was also discovered that environmental conflict is highly indicative of social conflicts.

Keywords; Fadama, Conflict, Nomadic activities, Wetlands, Biodiversity, Ecosystem.

Introduction

Wetlands (FADAMA) have alternative and competitive uses among which are crop farming, animal grazing fishing and wildlife hunting. Wetland farming is embraced in traditional farming to ensure an all the year round production for household use and petty sales to the public. The world Bank is using the FADAMA project therefore to aid the rural poor in achieving an effective use of Wetlands especially in the developing economies. Fadama II project was introduced to Oyo state agricultural landscape in 2004.

Wetlands constitute an ecosystem that is self sustaining and highly irreplaceable. The land is highly susceptible to biodiversity alteration if caution is not taken about its use. (Akanbi, 2005). Conflicts

over the years is known to be a negative agent or instrument of devil to destroy human and material resources (Lawal, 2005). Environmental and social conflicts are interrelated and inseparable. The usual weapon used in fighting these conflicts are those socially created sometimes to the detriment of the opposing side.

The indices of social conflicts identified among wetland farmers in Oyo state are Nomadism, Land tenure, Trespass, Inheritance, Lack of adequate knowledge about the use of wetlands.

Materials and Method

The study area: Oyo state lies within the transitional zone between the humid and sub-humid tropical climate with mean annual rainfall of 788mm-1884mm and mean temperature of 21.1-31.2 degree Celsius and relative humidity of 61-83 percent

(Moormann et al 1975). With a total of 23 local council areas, Oyo state has a sizeable number of FADAMA farmers. Since the inception of FADAMA 11 project, there has been a lot of bickering among operators, hence the necessity for a research into their operations especially in the area of conflicts.

Methodology: A total of 150 wetland farmers were studied between September 2004 and October 2005. The distribution was done using random sampling technique covering all the local governments in the state as follows;

Table 1: Distribution of farmers on local government basis.

<u>LOCAL GOVT</u>	<u>NO.OF FARMERS</u>	<u>LOCAL GOVT</u>	<u>NO.OF FARMERS.</u>
1. Afijio	4	18. Iwajowa	5
2. Akinyele	4	19. Kajola	5
3. Atiba	5	20. Lagelu	4
4. Atisbo	4	21. Ogbomoso North	4
5. Egbeda	5	22. Ogbomoso South	5
6. Ibadan north	5	23. Ogo-Oluwa	5
7. Ibadan North East	4	24. Oluyole	4
8. Ibadan North West	5	25. Ona-ara	5
9. Ibadan South East	4	26. Oore-Lope	5
10. Ibadan South West	5	27. Oriire	4
11. Ibarapa Central	5	28. Olorunsogo	5
12. Ibarapa East	4	29. Oyo-East	5
13. Ibarapa North	5	30. Oyo-West	4
14. Iddo	4	31. SakiEast	5
15. Irepo	4	32. Saki West	4
16. Iseyin	5	33. Surulere	5
17. Itesiwaju	4	Total number of farmers	150

The one hundred and fifty wetland farmers were interviewed after they were served with structural questionnaires. The following five conflict indices were then identified and studied:

- Nomadic activities.
- Land tenure.
- Trespass.
- Inheritance.
- Lack of adequate knowledge about the use of wetland (LAK).

The farmers were grouped into two based on WITHIN and BETWEEN group conflict forms as follows;

- INTRA: Fanner/Farmer
Fisherman/
Fisherman....WITHIN group.
Pastoralist/Pastoralist
- INTER: Farmer/Pastoralist
Farmer Fisherm.....BETWEEN
group.
Pastoralist/Vegetable grower et
cetera.

The statistical tool used to analyze the result was student t-test.

Results and Discussion

Table 2: General outlook of conflict indices on frequency basis;

S/N	INDEX	NO OF CONFLICTS	% OF TOTAL
1	Trespassing	68	45.33
2	Nomadic activities	36	24
3	Land Tenure	21	14
4	LAK	16	10.66
5	Inheritance	9	6
	TOTAL	150	100

Table 3: Within group and Between group occurrence on frequency basis.

S/N	INDEX	CONFLICT WITHIN GROUP	%OF TOTAL	CONFLICT BETWEEN GROUP	%OF TOTAL
1.	Trespassing	8	5.33	60	40
2.	Nomadic Activities	15	10	21	14
3.	Land tenure	12	8	9	6
4.	LAK	9	6	7	4.66
5.	Inheritance	5	3.33	4	2.66
x	8	15	12	9	5
y	60	21	9	1	4

t = 0.706 (Tab); 0.404 (Cal)
0.5

Trespassing: Encroachment of wetlands by arable farmers is highest with 68%, within group of 5.33% and between group of 40%. This confirms the findings of Sanda (2005) when he stated that additional stress is put on FADAMA land by the transient pastoralists who migrate to FADAMA areas during the dry season from as far as hundreds of kilometers away. Efforts should be directed at creating separate pastures for pastoralists while a proper demarcation of FADAMA farms will stem the tide of trespassing.

Nomadic Activities: Grazing animals directed into wetland especially during offseasons when fresh-bites are in short supply. Nomadic activities as an index of conflict accounted for 36%, within group of 10% and between group of 14%. The conflict is mostly among pastoralists and arable/vegetable growers.

Land Tenure: Petty *envof* arising among migrants and land holders. The former are presumed not entitled to wetlands whereas the latter claim and utilizes the whole available wetlands. Land tenure

accounted for 14% of conflict indices in the study area. Also, the conflict index has an 8% within and 6% between group intensity.

Lak: The method of operation is centered around traditional mode. The use of organic manure is not generally entrenched while beds are prepared along the slope, this however encourages leaching down slope. The summary is that there is inadequate knowledge as to the multiple land use. LAK accounted for 10.66%, within group of 6% and between group of 4.66%. Environmental conflicts are more associated with LAK as an index of conflict.

Inheritance; These were conflicts arising from disagreement over inheritance. It centered on culture and gender, women that were married out were barred from further utilizing wetland facilities. In most case, the women were as well debarred from such facilities where they were married to. Inheritance index accounted for 6% of conflicts, within group of 3.3% and between group of 2.66%.

Going by the statistical analysis result on a general note, conflict within group independently occur regardless of the intensity of between group conflicts.

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