

Factors affecting the performance of the Village Land Councils in managing land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.

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Abstract	NG-Journal of Social Development
<p><i>The current study evaluated the variables influencing Village Land Councils' (VLC) ability to resolve land disputes before they are twisting out of their control. Pastoralists would often transhumance, taking their herds far from their villages in search of pastures and water, and sometimes they would let their animals to graze on agricultural fields. The Tanzanian government was prompted to divide village holdings into sections designated for farmers and livestock keepers to resolve the tensions between farmers and pastoralists to prevent ongoing conflicts. Key informant interviews and semi-structured interviews were used to gather data. NVivo software 14 was used to evaluate the qualitative data. The results indicate that the low literacy rates of their members, the absence of VLC capacity building, the absence of a chain of command in the conflict mediation and resolution process, biased choices, and corruption all contributed to the village land councils' limited ability to mitigate land conflicts. As a result, in defiance of the Village Land Act of 1999's instructions, communities arraign land disputes in public courts. It is found that village land councils, which were intended to hold reconciliation sessions and serve as village tribunals for reconciliation at the village level, have not succeeded in achieving the goals set forth, notwithstanding the limitations of the</i></p>	<p><i>Vol. 13 Issue 1 (2024)</i> <i>ISSN(p) 0189-5958</i> <i>ISSN (e) 2814-1105</i> <i>Home page</i> <i>https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ngjsd</i> ARTICLE INFO: Keyword: <i>Factors, Village land Council, farmers, and pastoralist conflicts</i> Article History <i>Received 18th March 2024</i> <i>Accepted: 5th April 2024</i> <i>DOI:</i> https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ngjsd.v13i1.13</p>

Village Land Act. The report suggests that the Village Land Act be reviewed, that VLC members' capability be increased, that secondary education be made a requirement for council participation, and that corruption be eliminated.

1. Introduction

In many situations, conflicts are unavoidable. Typically, they include interpersonal issues involving two or more parties, such as the farmers and pastoralists mentioned in this study. Holy texts feature accounts of confrontations between pastoralists and farmers. For example, in Genesis 4:2–8, we read of Cain, a farmer, killing Abel, a pastoralist. Such disputes are not new. Several researchers such as Massay (2017) argue that conflicts between farmers and pastoralists are not new phenomena in different parts of the world including Africa. Most conflicts related to land use are because of factors such as inadequate grazing reserve and stock routes; changes in land tenure system; insufficient legislation pastoralism; expansion in agricultural policies; economic factors and climate changes have also been identified as the long-term causes of the conflict.

Conflicts over land use are a typical occurrence in emerging nations. Land use conflicts, according to Haule (2017), are fueled by the rising demand for land for habitation, commercial agriculture, and animal rearing activities that provide a living for millions of people in emerging nations. Land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists have been prevalent in Sub-Saharan African countries. In the context of resource scarcity, population growth, inadequate grazing reserves, unequal distribution and access to land and water resources, and other factors, such confrontations often turn violent. Some of the most prominent farmer-herder conflicts, according to Massay (2017), are between farmers and pastoralists in the following countries: Burkina Faso's Mossi and Fulani farmers; Nigeria's Hausa and Fulani farmers; and Kenya's Pokomo farmers and Orma pastoralists, where conflicts between farmers and pastoralists are most noticeable during dry spells. These conflicts frequently turn violent due to a variety of issues, including population increase, resource shortages, inadequate grazing reserves, unequal access to and distribution of land and water resources, and others. According to Massay (2017), some of the most well-known farmer-herder conflicts occur between farmers and pastoralists in the following nations: the Hausa and Fulani farmers in Nigeria; the Pokomo farmers and Orma pastoralists in Kenya; these conflicts are most noticeable during dry spells.

The lack of sufficient land resources to support both groups is the primary cause of the ongoing conflict between Tanzania's pastoralists and farmers (Massay, 2017). In a similar vein, other academics contend that the two groups have been engaged in a protracted legal battle for the usage of the land, which has led to fatalities and property losses (Walwa, 2020). Even though Tanzania is gifted with an area of 94.5 million hectares of land, out of which 44 million hectares are classified as suitable for agriculture, large proportion of land about 37.4 million hectares are protected areas such as game reserves, game-controlled areas, wildlife management areas and sites (Saruni, 2018). These regions are controlled through legal or other effective ways, such as protected areas, and are explicitly safeguarded for the preservation of biological diversity, natural resources, or related cultural resources.

Experience in Tanzania reveals that droughts are the most apparent seasons for reoccurring disputes between farmers and pastoralists. Pastoralists would often transhumance, taking their herds far from their villages in search of pastures and water, and sometimes they would let their animals to graze on agricultural fields. Following the burning of homes and food crops on farms, these ongoing disputes between farmers and pastoralists leave hundreds of people without a place to live, food insecure, and some dead (Ntumva, 2023). State actions have become necessary due to the growing magnitude of the conflicts. The Tanzanian government was prompted to divide village holdings into sections designated for farmers and livestock keepers to resolve the tensions between farmers and pastoralists. For instance, Mbalali Village in Mbalali District was divided into two sections, one for crop production and the other for grazing, the two primary land uses (Mwamfupe, 2015).

The administration has reportedly made efforts, but the confrontations are still occurring, and their effects are getting worse. This condition presents a lot of problems as to why such conflicts are recurring (Ringo, 2023). Although research notes that the growing number of disputes between farmers and pastoralists in different regions is concerning, it is unclear what precisely triggers the recurrence of this circumstance. It is possible that new drivers are emerging, that the tactics used to handle these conflicts are inappropriate for the current circumstances, or that the drivers that have already been identified have not been addressed appropriately. Considering the circumstances, the following questions are addressed in this paper: What influences the effectiveness of Village Land Councils in resolving disputes over land usage between farmers and pastoralists in the districts of Kilosa, Mbalali, and Tunduru? Considering the, this work is arranged into the following sections. A theoretical review addressing theory-related questions is presented in the first section. The methodology is covered in the second section, and the results and discussion, together with the conclusion and recommendations, are covered in the last section. As a result, this study adds significantly to our understanding of the body of literature already in existence and sheds light on the most effective strategies for handling conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in a sustainable manner. Since such conflicts have been recurring and that are currently at an alarming situation, the finding of this paper is useful for decision and policy makers, and other stakeholders such as local government, which is responsible for among other things to ensure peace and security (Jesse and Bengesi, 2018).

2. Literature Review and Theoretical framework

In Tanzania, Village Land Councils have been established in order to mediate land use conflicts between land users (farmers and pastoralists being part of them). However, in other Sub Saharan Countries similar local institutions with similar purposes despite differences in identities and institutional powers being vested on them. The performance of local institutions that provide mediation services for the rural people is influenced by different factors as being analyzed by the following scholars. Different contemporary scholars have discussed about the factors affecting the performance of the Village Land Councils in managing land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. Mohammed (2020) affirmed that members of the Village Land Councils perform their duties accordingly when they are conversant with the national land policy, land acts and guidelines that regulate various activities including mediation services that are being provided by the respective institutions. Haule (2017) added that such knowledge is associated with the capacity of the members to read, write and count; implying that literacy remains the base for accessing and using public documents that can be used as essential tools for mediation services. Genda (2023) also reported that community support is required to ensure efficacy in the provision of mediation

services. The host communities can encourage and support the respective local authorities in adhering to the existing procedures and respecting fair decisions being made by the members of the respective local organ. In addition, Mutisi (2012) revealed that community members have to avoid corruption and other illegal practices that could threaten the legitimacy of the Village Land Councils. Village Land Councils cannot operate successfully without having sufficient assets namely: financial, physical and human. Availability of such resources can ensure effectiveness in the management of land disputes at the village level. Moritz (2010) reported that Village Land Councils need sufficient resources for active and effective executions of their responsibilities. Presence of resources can enable the Village Land Councils to procure files for recording land cases and decisions being made by the members of the respective organs, construct good offices, procure furniture and transport facilities.

According to the conflict theory, tensions and conflicts arise when resources, status, and power are unevenly distributed between groups in society and these conflicts become the engine of social change (Falanta *et al.*, 2018). In addition, Tonah (2006) maintains that the conflict theory views constant antagonism over economic resources as the fundamental cause of conflict and this usually happens when two or more parties fail to reach a consensus on resources they need. Karl Marx, through conflict theory, indicates the role played by coercion and power in producing some form of social order (Crossman, 2016). The theories highlight that normality is maintained with domination and power rather than by consensus and conformity. The individuals obtain the control of material resources and accumulated wealth. They equally, jointly control politics and institutions that govern societies; however, this paper argues that it is not all the contexts that coercive power is in place to solve the conflicts.

In other circumstances, the participatory approaches are more appropriate and effective. This basically means that the theory of conflict is narrowed down or less broadened and may not support such situations which call for participation approaches being that it capitalizes on the application of the coercive power in response to conflicts.

Conflict Resolution Theory

The field of conflict resolution theory has produced theoretical understandings of the nature and causes of conflicts as well as the peaceful means of resolving disputes and achieving long-lasting agreements. According to Boundless (2016), the conflict resolution theory holds that disputes between rival groups are the cause of social behavior in people. Karl Marx said that "a society is a dynamic entity constantly undergoing changes by class conflict," which is the basis of the idea. The conflict perspective sees social interactions as rivalries. All social relationships are based on competition for limited resources.

Given that the philosophy of conflict resolution considers more inclusive and nonviolent means of resolving disputes, this essay makes the case that conflict resolution theory can provide useful context when coercive methods are inappropriate. Since we don't always find ourselves in perfect circumstances, we anticipate that both coercive and participative approaches that is, the two approaches to conflict resolution will be used. However, there may be instances where using both approaches must be done. From this background, the paper makes the following claim: "In real life, it is not realistic to claim that one strategy fits all types of conflicts; it is possible that some situations require participatory approaches, while others will require coercive power, and in some

incidences, you need a combination of both." This study proposes that both theories should be taken into consideration in this situation.

Conceptual framework

Conflict Tree

The conflict tree is a visual aid that may be used to spark debate about the origins and consequences of conflicts as well as to establish consensus over the main issue and the order of importance for resolving it. It works best in a group setting where many causes and effects may be explored and decided upon. Conflicts can have extremely deep roots, so it's best to try to identify the least likely source of the problem. While addressing this or other reasons may or may not fall within the purview of the intervention or even the project's sphere of influence, interventions should be designed with all causes and effects in mind, and when feasible, they should be favorably impacted.

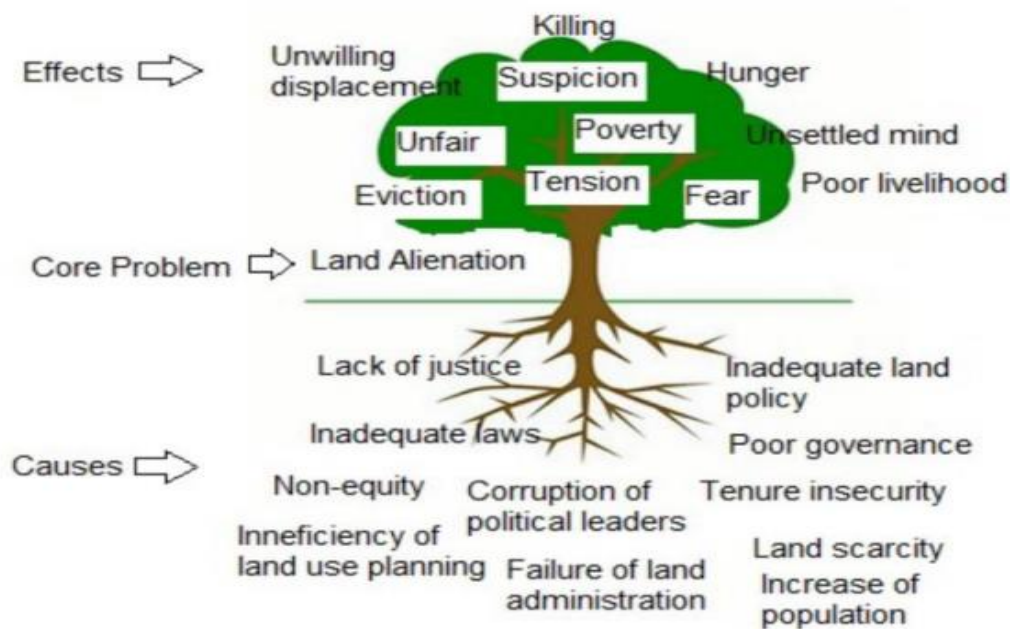


Figure 1: A conflict tree from Tanzania.

Source: Genda, (2023)

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Description of the Study Area

Mbarali District Council

It is located between latitude 70 and 90 South of Equator and between longitude 33.80 and 350 East of Greenwich meridian. The District Council were situated at an altitude of about 1,000 to 1,800 meter above the sea level with temperature ranging between 250C and 300C. The District Council has one rainy season which starts from December to April with the annual rainfall of about 450 to 650 millimeters.

Mbarali District Council has been classified into five land use patterns, namely, agriculture, livestock keeping, settlement, forest reserve and national park, wildlife management and game reserve. The respective district council is divided into two agricultural ecological zones; Usangu flat lands and Usangu flats Boarder. Usangu flat land zone is characterized by subtropical forest, sub-tropical grasslands, and thorn bushes. The main economic activities carried out in this zone are agriculture (growing of maize, paddy, beans, cassava, groundnuts, sorghum, vegetable, and fruits) and pastoralists engage in rearing cattle, goats, sheep, chicken, and dogs. Usangu flat boarder zone is characterized by sub-tropical forests, grasslands, and thorn bushes. Farmers in this zone grow maize, sorghum, beans, cassava, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, vegetables and fruits and pastoralists keep cattle, goats, sheep, chicken, and donkey (URT, 2020).

Kilosa District Council

Kilosa district council was one of the nine councils in the Morogoro region. It has two parliamentary constituencies namely: Kilosa and Mikumi. Also, the respective district council has two township authorities that include Kilosa and Mikumi Townships. The Kilosa District Council has an average annual rainfall of between 800 mm to 1600 mm depending upon the altitude. The temperature in the district varies with altitude as well. The average annual temperature is 25°C with the coldest month being July and the hottest month being March. The average annual temperature ranges from 19°C to 30°C. The district council was divided into three different agricultural ecological zones: mountains, uplands plateau and flood plains.

Tunduru District Council

Tunduru District was in the extreme Southeastern part of Ruvuma Region between latitudes 100 15' and 110 45' South of the Equator and between longitudes 360 30' and 380' east of Greenwich. Its boarders Namtumbo District to the West, Liwale District (Lindi region) to the north, Nachingwea District (Lindi region) and Masasi District (Mtwara region) to the East. In the south, it borders the Ruvuma River which forms a physical international boundary with the People's Republic of Mozambique.

3.2 Relevance of choosing the respective district councils

The study has selected three district councils namely: Mbarali, Kilosa and Tunduma found in Mbeya, Morogoro and Ruvuma regions respectively. These three Local Government Authorities have been selected because they accommodate farmers and pastoralists who compete over the scarce land resource for attaining their desired goals. This situation leads to land use disputes between them as they tragically culminate in killings of human beings and livestock, severe injuries for innocent people and destruction of houses, crops, and other related properties.

3.3 Research Approach

A qualitative research approach was used to obtain an in-depth understanding of the conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, VLC's daily operations and other related phenomena that will be systematically investigated. According to Kothari and Garg (2014), qualitative approach concerns subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions, and behavior. It also finds out how people feel or think about a particular subject. In addition, Kombo, and Tromp (2006) reported that qualitative approach enables the researcher to discover the unexpected and in-depth investigation of topics.

This study seeks to capture people's attitudes towards the effectiveness of the Village Land Councils in resolving land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists and discover the truth about the institutional capacity of the Village Land Councils to end land disputes between the respective disputants and thus collaborate with other public organs to create conducive living environment of farmers and pastoralists in the countryside.

3.4 Research Design

The study employed a descriptive-exploratory cross-sectional design. The study was cross-sectional because it involved interviewing a representative sample of a population at a single point in time and intends to provide quick results which allows the collection of data from groups of different characteristics. It was descriptive because the researcher intends to provide a picture of a situation and show how things are related to each other as it naturally occurs. The study was exploratory because the researcher needed to explore the research topics with varying levels of depth to capture the unknown realities.

3.5 Target Population

According to Bryman (2016), population is a generalization area consisting of objects/subjects that have certain characteristics and qualities set by researchers to be studied and then drawn into conclusions.

The target population for this study included: - Farmers; Pastoralists; Members of the Village Land Councils; Technocrats working in the Land, Agricultural and Livestock departments in the responsible Ministries and Local Government Authorities; Leaders of water users associations; Leaders of farmers and pastoralists associations; Officials from Rufiji Basin Development Authority and Wami-Ruvu Basin Water Board; Village Executive Officers and Village Chairpersons,

3.6 Sampling Procedures

According to Kombo and Tromp (2006), sampling was defined as the act, process, or technique of selecting a suitable sample or representative part of a population to determine parameters or characteristics of the whole population.

Sample Size

The study involved farmers and pastoralists from Mbarali, Kilosa and Tunduru District Councils. These respondents were selected because they possess sufficient information on research issues being investigated. Principally, the study intends to have a small number of respondents (farmers and pastoralists) who will be selected from six villages in three (3) district councils. The criteria of selecting villages were based on the frequency of occurrence of land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists and the presence of Village Land Councils which operate at the grass root level to resolve land disputes between the respective disputants.

Sampling Techniques

The study was applied non-probability sampling techniques to select relevant respondents in the study area. The study employed purposive sampling technique to select villages which have been reported frequently to experience land disputes between farmers and pastoralists and have Village Land Councils for resolving conflicts between the respective disputants.

3.7 Data Collection Methods

Primary Data

With respect to the research problem, the study used a semantic differential scale in measuring the attitude of community members towards the effectiveness of the Village Land Councils in managing land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.

Key informants' interviews were used for all key informants from the respective ministries, Local Government Authorities, Farmers and Pastoralists' Associations and Water Users' Associations to explore detailed technical information about the subject under study. The information that will be obtained from the respective technocrats will be purely qualitative.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) was conducted to gather detailed information from the key respondents (farmers and pastoralists). According to Edmund (1999), FGDs are guided discussions addressing a particular topic of interest or relevant to the group and the researcher. Focus Group Discussions consists of a small number of participants under the guidance of a facilitator, usually called the moderator. Kruger (1994) suggests that for complex research problems, focus group size should be kept to more than seven (7) respondents. However, Mwangi and Mbeche (2004) reported that at times the FGDs may result in emotional contestations which may end up creating hostility among the participants.

With this knowledge, the study was conducted separate Focus Group Discussions in each village. This implies that group one will involve farmers and the other will be for pastoralists. In each group, the study will select six (6) respondents where gender balance was observed. The researcher was used tape recorder to collect information from the members of FGDs. According to Singh (2018) Focus Group Discussions allow researchers to access the substantive content of verbally expressed views, opinions, experiences, and attitudes which can be used as essential inputs for generating appropriate findings.

3.8 Data Analysis

NVivo software 14 was adopted for coding data in this study, analyzing and visualizing themes that were collected through the qualitative approach. This analysis involved the following procedures importing data from the interview transcripts, exploring data to identify the key words from respondents and key informants, coding key words through the feature of node where key words will be searched through query, displaying of all key words of the data then displaying key words in the forms of visualization: graphs or charts. Furthermore, the study planned to analyze some qualitative data through case-by-case analysis whereby the study expects to develop three separate cases to represent the selected district councils: Mbarali, Tunduru and Kilosa. In each case, the study revealed unique findings subjected to the district council. Moreover, the cross-sectional analysis was employed in the study that was reveal similar findings or phenomena that prevail in the selected district councils and dissimilar findings or phenomena which existing in the selected district councils. According to Kumar (2011), analysis in qualitative studies enables researchers to move beyond statistical modeling and present findings in wider perspectives by focusing on human behavior, feelings, and attitudes, similar and dissimilar social phenomena which cannot be grasped by the numerical data.

4.0 Results and Discussions

4.1 Socio-Demographic Information of Farmers and Pastoralists in the Study Area

a) Tunduru District council

4.1.1 Age Distribution

The results in Table 1 shows that respondents' ages vary across the villages and occupations. The ages range from 35 to 56, with different age groups represented in both Muhuwesi and Misechela. It implies that most of the farmers were still young and thus capable of engaging fully in agricultural production while most livestock keepers were a little bit old. However, all of them are producers in different productive sectors.

4.1.2 Education Status

The study show that education levels differ among respondents. While some have primary education, others have no formal schooling. There is also a case of secondary education in Muhuwesi Farmer 3. This reveals all farmers were literate and thus they could read, write, and count whereas most of the pastoralists were illiterate meaning that they could not read, write, and count. This situation prevails because most of the farmers reside in formal settlement areas where social services are accessible different from the pastoralists who reside in the peripheries where social services (particularly primary and secondary schools) are not available and accessible at all.

4.1.3 Experience in the Field

The experience in the field varies, ranging from 8 to 38 years. This indicates a diversity in the level of expertise and potentially different levels of knowledge and skills in agriculture and pastoralism. Both farmers and pastoralists have long working experience in their fields. However, most of the pastoralists have reported to have more working experience in the field compared to their counterparts (farmers).

4.1.4 Household Composition

The results show the number of household members ranges from 4 to 13. This information is crucial for understanding the size of families and their potential needs, as well as the distribution of labor within households. Pastoralists have more household members compared to the farmers. These household members are used as labors who engage in various operations in the livestock industry. In the agricultural sector, farmers rely more on hired labors who provide services for money.

4.1.5 Land Size

Land sizes also vary among respondents. Farmers and pastoralists have different acreages, ranging from 2 to 8 acres. This could impact the scale of agricultural or pastoral activities and overall productivity. Farmers had been reported to possess more acres of land compared with pastoralists. Such differences prevail because land size has a significant contribution towards agricultural productivity. Farmers who possess productive land and adhere to the desirable agronomic practices have the capacity to increase productivity and attain positive livelihood outcomes.

4.1.6 Cattle Ownership

Cattle ownership is observed among pastoralists, with numbers ranging from 200 to 1000. This indicates the significance of cattle in the pastoralist communities and may be a key economic factor for them.

4.1.7 Patterns across Villages

Differences in education, experience, and other factors are evident between Muhuwesi and Misechela. For instance, Muhuwesi has a respondent with secondary education, while Misechela has respondents with longer experience periods. The data suggests a diverse agricultural and pastoral landscape in Tunduru District Council. Different levels of education and experience may

have implications for agricultural practices, productivity, and the socio-economic well-being of the respondents.

Table 1: Shows socio-demographic characteristics of Tunduru District Council

Village	Respondents	Age	Education Status	Experience (years)	Household Members	Land Size (acres)	Number of Cattle
Muhuwesi	Farmer 1	43	Primary Education	12	8	6	-
	Farmer 2	50	Primary Education	25	6	8	-
	Farmer 3	38	Secondary Education	8	4	4	-
	Pastoralist 1	45	Primary Education	20	8	2	300
	Pastoralist 2	51	No schooling	36	11	4	900
	Pastoralist 3	56	No schooling	38	13	4	500
Misechela	Farmer 1	35	Primary Education	10	5	4	-
	Farmer 2	54	Primary Education	20	9	8	-
	Farmer 3	43	Primary Education	11	5	5	-
	Pastoralist 1	40	No schooling	20	7	2	200
	Pastoralist 2	51	No schooling	38	10	3	1000
	Pastoralist 3	48	Primary Education	28	9	4	700

b) Kilosa District Council

4.1.8 Age Distribution

Like the Tunduru District, the ages of respondents in Kilosa District range from 30 to 54, indicating a mix of different age groups engaged in farming and pastoralism.

4.1.9 Education Status

Education levels vary among respondents, with some having secondary education, while others have only primary education or no formal schooling. This diversity can impact the knowledge and practices in agriculture and pastoralism. Most of the farmers in the study area were educated in the sense that they attained primary and secondary education. Some of the pastoralists had attained primary education while majority of them did not attend formal education. Pastoralists' daily operations limit the possibility of accessing education services for themselves and their children.

4.2 Experience in the Field

Experience in the field ranges from 6 to 34 years. This diversity suggests a mix of both relatively newer entrants and more experienced individuals, potentially contributing to varied farming and pastoral practices. Both farmers and pastoralists have long working experience in their fields. However, most of the pastoralists have reported to have more working experience in the field compared to their counterparts (farmers). This is attributed to the nature of the respective economic activity which is directly attached to their livelihood. Principally, pastoralists start to engage in such productive role from their childhood.

4.2.1 Household Composition

The number of household members varies, with the range being 3 to 15. Larger households may have implications for labor distribution and resource management. Pastoralists have more household members compared to the farmers. These household members are used as labors who engage in various operations in the livestock industry. In the agricultural sector, farmers rely more on hired labors who provide services for money.

4.2.2 Land Size

Land sizes vary across respondents, ranging from 2 to 7 acres. This information is crucial for understanding the scale of agricultural activities and the potential for productivity. Farmers had been reported to possess more acres of land compared with pastoralists. Such differences prevail because land size has a significant contribution towards agricultural productivity. Farmers who possess productive land and adhere to the desirable agronomic practices have the capacity to increase productivity and attain positive livelihood outcomes.

4.2.3 Cattle Ownership

Pastoralists in Mbwade and Rudewa Batini own cattle, with numbers ranging from 200 to 800. Cattle ownership appears to be significant in these communities, potentially playing a key role in their livelihoods. Pastoralists in Kilosa District Council possess fewer cattle compared to their counterparts operating in Tunduru District Council. Kilosa District Council does not sufficient land to accommodate farmers and pastoralists together since most of land is possessed by multinational and local investors who utilize such resources for commercial agricultural production (sisal production). This situation forces pastoralists to avoid overgrazing and possess cattle that can be managed in accordance with the land size. Tunduru District Council has sufficient land which can accommodate large number of livestock particularly near Ruvuma River basin. This situation encourages pastoralists to migrate from other parts of Tanzania to Tunduru because of being optimistic to access potential areas for good grasses and water for their livestock.

4.2.3 Patterns across Villages

Differences in education, experience, and other factors can be observed between Mbwade and Rudewa Batini. For instance, Rudewa Batini has respondents with secondary education, while Mbwade has respondents with longer experience periods. Like Tunduru District, Kilosa District shows a diverse agricultural and pastoral landscape. Variations in education, experience, and household characteristics may have implications for agricultural productivity, resource utilization, and overall socio-economic conditions.

Table 2: Shows socio-demographic of Kilosa District Council

Village	Respondents	Age	Education Status	Experience (years)	Household Members	Land Size (acres)	Number of Cattle
Mbwade	Farmer 1	32	Secondary Education	10	6	3	-
	Farmer 2	43	Primary Education	17	8	4	-
	Farmer 3	50	Primary Education	28	9	4	-
	Pastoralist 1	43	Primary Education	20	9	3	200
	Pastoralist 2	54	No schooling	34	15	4	800
	Pastoralist 3	49	No schooling	28	11	4	300
Rudewa Batini	Farmer 1	30	Secondary Education	6	3	2	-
	Farmer 2	44	Primary Education	20	7	4	-
	Farmer 3	51	Primary Education	30	9	7	-
	Pastoralist 1	46	Primary Education	20	7	2	250
	Pastoralist 2	51	No schooling	28	15	4	800
	Pastoralist 3	48	No schooling	28	7	3	400

c) Mbarali District Council

4.2.4 Age Distribution

Respondents' ages in Mbarali District Council range from 28 to 54, indicating a mix of different age groups engaged in farming and pastoralism. Most of farmers and pastoralists found in the study area were mid-adults whose capacity to engage in productive roles were extremely higher. Both used the available resources to produce for generating income and improving their livelihood outcomes.

4.2.5 Education Status

Education levels vary among respondents, with primary education being common, and some respondents having secondary education. There are also pastoralists with no formal schooling. This diversity in education levels may influence farming and pastoral practices. Farmers were reported to attain primary and secondary education different from the pastoralists. Most of the pastoralists were primary education leavers; fewer of them did not attain any form of formal education.

4.2.6 Experience in the Field

Experience in the field ranges from 7 to 31 years. This suggests a mix of both relatively newer entrants and more experienced individuals, potentially contributing to varied farming and pastoral practices. Both farmers and pastoralists have long working experience in their fields. However, most of the pastoralists have reported to have more working experience in the field compared to their counterparts (farmers). This is attributed to the nature of the respective economic activity which is directly attached to their livelihood. Principally, pastoralists start to engage in such productive role from their childhood.

4.2.7 Household Composition

The number of household members varies, with the range being 4 to 14. Larger households may have implications for labor distribution and resource management, affecting overall productivity. Pastoralists have more household members compared to the farmers. These household members are used as labors who engage in various operations in the livestock industry. In the agricultural sector, farmers rely more on hired labors who provide services for money.

4.2.8 Land Size

Land sizes vary across respondents, ranging from 2 to 6 acres. Understanding the land sizes is crucial for assessing the scale of agricultural activities and potential productivity. Farmers had been reported to possess more acres of land compared with pastoralists. Such differences prevail because land size has a significant contribution towards agricultural productivity. Farmers who possess productive land and adhere to the desirable agronomic practices have the capacity to increase productivity and attain positive livelihood outcomes.

4.2.9 Cattle Ownership

Pastoralists in Mwanavala and Matebete own cattle, with numbers ranging from 150 to 400. Cattle ownership appears to be significant in these communities, potentially playing a key role in their livelihoods. Pastoralists in Mbarali District Council possess fewer cattle compared to their counterparts operating in Tunduru District Council. Mbarali District Council does not sufficient land to accommodate farmers and pastoralists together since most of land is reserved for public use and the rest is possessed by investors for commercial purposes (rice production). This situation forces pastoralists to avoid overgrazing and possess cattle that can be managed in accordance with the land size. Tunduru District Council has vast land which can accommodate large number of livestock particularly near Ruvuma River basin. This situation encourages pastoralists to migrate from other parts of Tanzania to Tunduru because of being optimistic to access potential areas for good grasses and water for their livestock.

4.3 Patterns across Villages

Differences in education, experience, and other factors can be observed between Mwanavala and Matebete. For instance, Matebete has respondents with secondary education, while Mwanavala has respondents with longer experience periods. Mbarali District Council, like the previously mentioned districts, exhibits a diverse agricultural and pastoral landscape. Variations in education,

experience, and household characteristics may have implications for agricultural productivity, resource utilization, and overall socio-economic conditions.

Table 3: Shows socio-demographic characteristic of Mbarali District Council.

Village	Respondents	Age	Education Status	Experience in the Field	Household Members	Land Size	Number of Cattle
Mwanavala	Farmer 1	42	Primary Education	15	6	4	-
	Farmer 2	38	Primary Education	10	5	3	-
	Farmer 3	54	Primary Education	30	10	5	-
	Pastoralist 1	42	Primary Education	20	7	3	150
	Pastoralist 2	49	No schooling	25	10	3	300
	Pastoralist 3	40	Primary Education	20	8	3	200
Matebete	Farmer 1	28	Secondary Education	7	4	3	-
	Farmer 2	42	Secondary Education	15	7	4	-
	Farmer 3	52	Primary Education	31	10	6	-
	Pastoralist 1	50	No schooling	30	13	2	400
	Pastoralist 2	53	No schooling	31	14	4	300
	Pastoralist 3	41	Primary Education	19	7	2	150

4.4 Factors affecting the performance of the Village Land Councils in managing land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.

Competency among the members of the Village Land Councils enables them to provide meditative services to the rural people, the importance of having capable and competent members within Village Land Councils. These members are expected to possess the skills necessary to mediate and resolve land-related conflicts in rural areas, ultimately contributing to the effective management of land use issues and fostering harmonious relationships within the community.

Willingness of the local people to work with the Village Land Councils operating in their respective villages, the importance of community engagement and collaboration in the context of land governance. A positive willingness among residents to work with their Village Land Councils implies a constructive relationship, facilitating the effective implementation of land-related initiatives and policies that align with the interests and needs of the community.

High degrees of accountability and transparency among the VLC members and the conflicting partners. Suggests a commitment to ethical conduct, openness, and responsible behavior within the Village Land Councils (VLCs) and among individuals or groups involved in land-related conflicts, the importance of fostering a culture of accountability and transparency within VLCs and among conflicting parties. This commitment enhances trust, promotes fair decision-making, and contributes to the successful resolution of land-related conflicts. It reflects a proactive approach to governance that prioritizes ethical behavior and openness in dealing with issues related to land use and disputes.

Presence of institutional support from the Village Councils and other legal entities operating in the land sector. The collaborative nature of land governance, highlighting the role of institutional support from both local Village Councils and other legal entities operating in the land sector. This collaboration is crucial for the success of initiatives related to land management, conflict resolution, and overall sustainable development within the community. The involvement of

multiple entities reinforces the idea that effective land governance requires a coordinated effort from various stakeholders within the legal and governance framework.

Capacity to utilize the available resources for enabling daily operations in the village. The importance of having the capability to effectively use the available resources to enable the day-to-day operations within a village. This capacity is essential for promoting sustainability, resilience, and positive outcomes for the community. It suggests a strategic and mindful approach to resource management to support the ongoing needs and activities of the village.

Factors constraining Village Land Council in managing land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.

The data indicates notable disparities in perceptions between pastoralists and farmers regarding factors influencing conflict and Village Land Council (VLC) dynamics as shown on Table 4.

Table 4: From the coded values in NVIVO software version 14 the following was themes were coded as factors.

ID	Factors
F1	<i>Competency among VLC members for meditative services</i>
F2	<i>Willingness of local people to work with VLCs</i>
F3	<i>Accountability and transparency among VLC members</i>
F4	<i>Institutional support from Village Councils and entities</i>
F5	<i>Ability to use available resources for daily operations</i>
F6	<i>Lack of proper training for VLC members</i>
F7	<i>Interferences from political leaders and defence forces</i>
F8	<i>Corruption among VLC members</i>
F9	<i>Negative attitude of some land users towards VLCs</i>
F10	<i>Overrepresentation of farmers in VLCs</i>
F11	<i>Focus on proximate causes rather than underlying causes</i>
F12	<i>Legal powers and enforcement capability of Village Land Councils</i>

Source: NVIVO version 14

Among pastoralists, there are high percentages of issues such as excessive interference from political leaders and defense forces (80%), inadequate training for VLC members (70%), and a strong focus on immediate rather than underlying causes of conflicts (75%). Walwa (2017) indicate that pastoralists perceive significant external disruptions and a lack of institutional support, underscoring the importance of improved training and a more comprehensive approach to addressing conflict root causes. In this study, farmers show high percentages in being overrepresented in VLCs (80%), corruption among VLC members (70%), and a greater willingness to collaborate with VLCs (70%). These results underscore farmers' worries about governance problems within VLCs and the necessity of building cooperative relationships for effective conflict resolution and land management (Ringo, 2023).

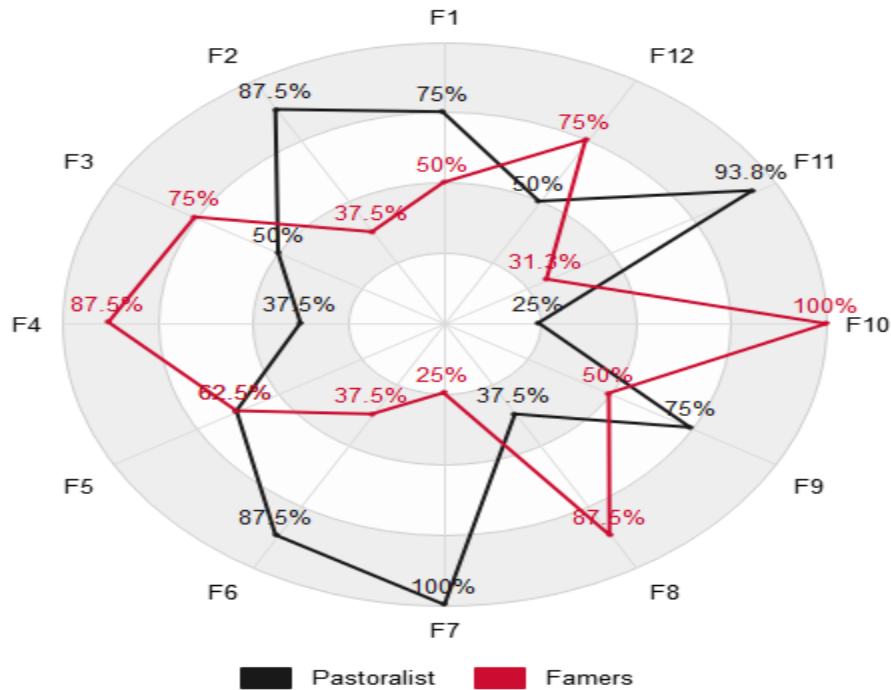


Figure 2: Radar charts showing the most prevailing factors affecting the performance of VLCs in managing land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.

The lack of proper training for members of the Village Land Councils hinders their capacity and diminishes their ability to deliver quality meditative services to the community (Mikael et al, 2020). This absence of training prevents them from fully developing the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively provide these services to the people. Haule (2017) agreed with the findings that revealed that involvement of local political leaders and police disrupt the normal functioning of VLCs’ operations. Their interference poses a significant obstacle as it undermines the rule of law and potentially compromises the wellbeing of the community for their own vested interests.

5. Conclusion

The Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999 established the Village Land Council in good faith, but despite this, the villagers' trust has eroded and the shortcomings of the often-disregarded Village Land Act such as the government's involvement in member appointments and the machinery's accountability to various governments or government organs have prevented the expectations from being fully realized. Villagers have traditionally mediated disputes through traditional elders' councils and tribunals rather than VLCs. In the meantime, the VLC in the study communities had no orientation, no training on roles, and no fundamental legal instruction on their responsibilities. This fact has repeatedly demonstrated the council's incapacity to examine its tasks effectively and fairly. However, in situations where village councils have an interest, the power of the village council which is mostly held by chairpersons erodes the autonomy of the Village Land Councils. Finally, there is a significant socioeconomic transformation taking place in the pastoralists’ communities of Tunduru, Kilosa and Mbarali Districts. Lately, they have shifted from being strict pastoralists to becoming more settled citizens and have expanded their sources of income to include business and crop production. Their increasing agricultural pastoralism is tripling the demand for land for long-term livelihood activities. The Maasai and Sukuma people may have

been compelled to adopt a permanent settlement system due to changes in political, land management, and administrative systems that have been in place since the 1980s, even though theories like increased poverty and the effects of climate change are thought to be the reasons behind this evolution. As a result of the system, there are now more land conflicts because the nomadic pastoralists such as Maasai and Mang'ati still practice their traditional lifestyles.

This suggests further that to promote peace and sustainable livelihood and development, Village Land Act No.5 of 1999 needs to incorporate a new and active participatory approach to land management and administration that considers all social groups and dynamics. In accordance with land management regulations, a land policy that considers the qualifications of VLC members based on their training and work experience must also be in place and upheld.

6. Recommendations

Ultimately, the researcher suggests that land conflicts should be viewed as a complex system including numerous sectors and causes. A lot of the time, not just humans are supposed to use land in a specific area that is, farmers or pastoralists. It is also, among other things, the land policies and laws, the district and local governance systems, the legal and social structures (including the functions of courts and the police). Thus, land conflict resolution measures that call for a holistic approach i.e. one that integrates a variety of interventions targeted for a variety of contributing elements and that call for efforts of various stakeholders who aim at one positive end should be employed to address unresolved major causes of land conflicts in Tanzania.

Sustainable strategies to end land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in the village. Community sensitization on the negative impact of the endless land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. Leaders and technocrats must observe the principle of good governance when fulfilling their duties. Community members must stop practicing undesirable actions which disturb social harmony. The responsible authorities must make laws/by-laws and develop proper strategies to enforce them on transformation of the agricultural and livestock sectors in rural Tanzania is needed (from subsistence level to the commercial level) as well as empowering local institutions operating in the villages, wards, and districts (capacity building, policies and acts, financial support)

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