Crop-Livestock Herder Conflicts in Ghana – The way forward

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by

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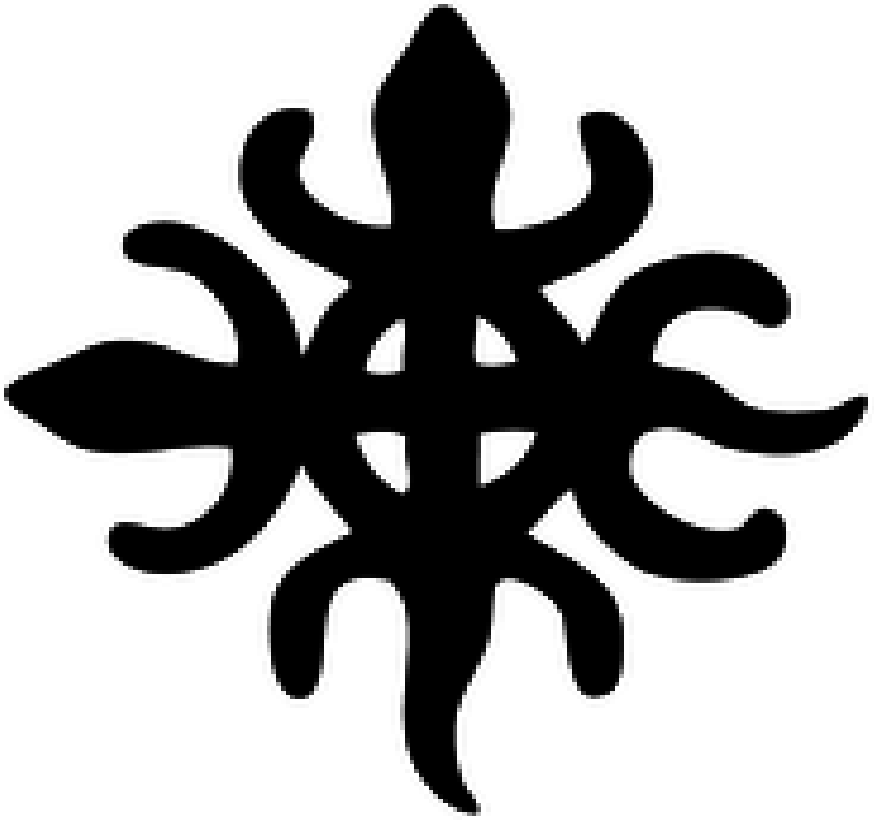
- Conflicts between crop farmers and cattle herders have existed since the beginning of agriculture.
- In Ghana this conflict existed but has escalated in intensity and frequency in recent times due to rapid urbanization and demand for land.

- Persistence of the Crop farmer-herder Conflict;
  - Why?

Is it the case of Funtumfrafu denkyem frafu (Mystical Akan crocodile)



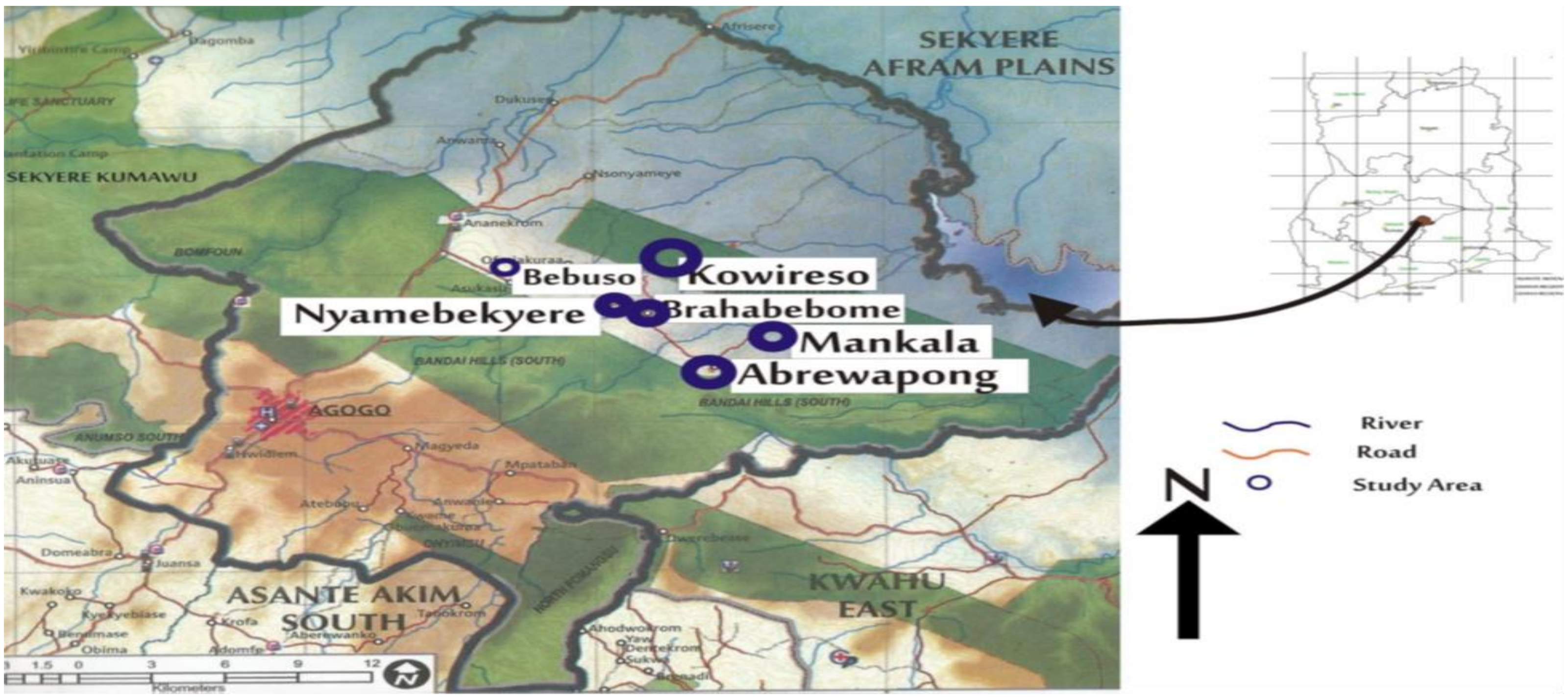
Crocodile Siamese Twins?

Two heads, one stomach

- Conflict over use of natural resources, land, food and water in parts of Ghana.
- Land is becoming scarce due to rapid urbanization and
- Increased numbers of ruminants and demand for meat and milk.

- In the middle belt of Ghana.
- Areas of much concern include; Ashanti Region;
    - Agogo, Kumawu, Drobonso, Nsuta, Beposo, Kwamang
- Parts of Eastern Region;
    - Afram Plains
    - Abetifi
- Brong-Ahafo Region;
    - Kintampo,
- But conflict more pronounced in Agogo and Afram Plains areas.

- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276525142/figure/fig1/AS:668999788539913@1536513387318/Map-of-Ghana-showing-regions-15.ppm



SEKYERE AFRAM PLAINS
SEKYERE KUMAWU
Kowireso
Bebuso
Nyamebekyere
Brahabebome
Mankala
Abrewapong
AGOGO
ASANTE AKIM SOUTH
KWAHU EAST
Kilometers
River
Road
Study Area
N

Consequences of Crop-herder conflict

- **Destruction of crop farmlands**
- **Fatalities; animal and human**
- **Heightened insecurity within the communities and disruption of social life**
- **Reduced socio-economic activities**

Consequences of Crop-herder conflict

- **Loss of potential revenue along the food value chain to:**
  - **District authorities**
  - **Herdsmen and crop farmers**
  - **Traders**
- **Drop in classroom attendance, malnutrition, ill-health of children in particular**
- **Women suffer most as their livelihood activities are centred on processing and marketing of farm produce.**

1. **Destruction of plantain farm**

2. Overgrazed land by cattle

3. Destruction of maize farm

4. Burning of field crop

5. Killing of cattle

6. Pollution of water

7. Burning of houses

8. Loss of life

- Baidoo (2014) in a study of the Agogo area on the crop-farmer-herder conflict concluded that these conflicts are shaped by three interest groups:
- Chiefs
- Herdsmen and
- Crop farmers.
  - There is also an element of political undertones particularly during campaign for election of political leadership.

- The Fulani are known to be the principal actors in the herding and management of cattle in Ghana and in West Africa in general.

- But Who are the Fulbe?

What many do not know about the Fulani in Ghana

- **Two main groups in Ghana:**
- **Settled Fulani and**
- **Nomadic Fulani**

Lawra-Tumu District Census Report (Ibrahim Baidoo, 2015)

Year	Population	Gender
1900	100	
1921	302	
1931	784 400 384	 Males Females
2022	???	???

- There is an increasing number of cattle

In urban areas including city centres of Accra and some in-city areas of Kumasi.

This production system is bring about new challenges which need to be addressed.

The Municipalities have by-laws but these have

To be aligned to address the current trends:

Increasing menace of cattle in Cities -

Abeka Junction – Peace FM, Accra

Source: CitiNews, June, 2022

Transporting cattle in Turaku - Ashiaman

Source: Tahiru, 2022.

Traditional approach to dealing with the conflict

Reactive rather than proactive approaches
Not much action is taken to plan and resolve the problem during the rainy season because there is sufficient forage and water.

Lessons learned

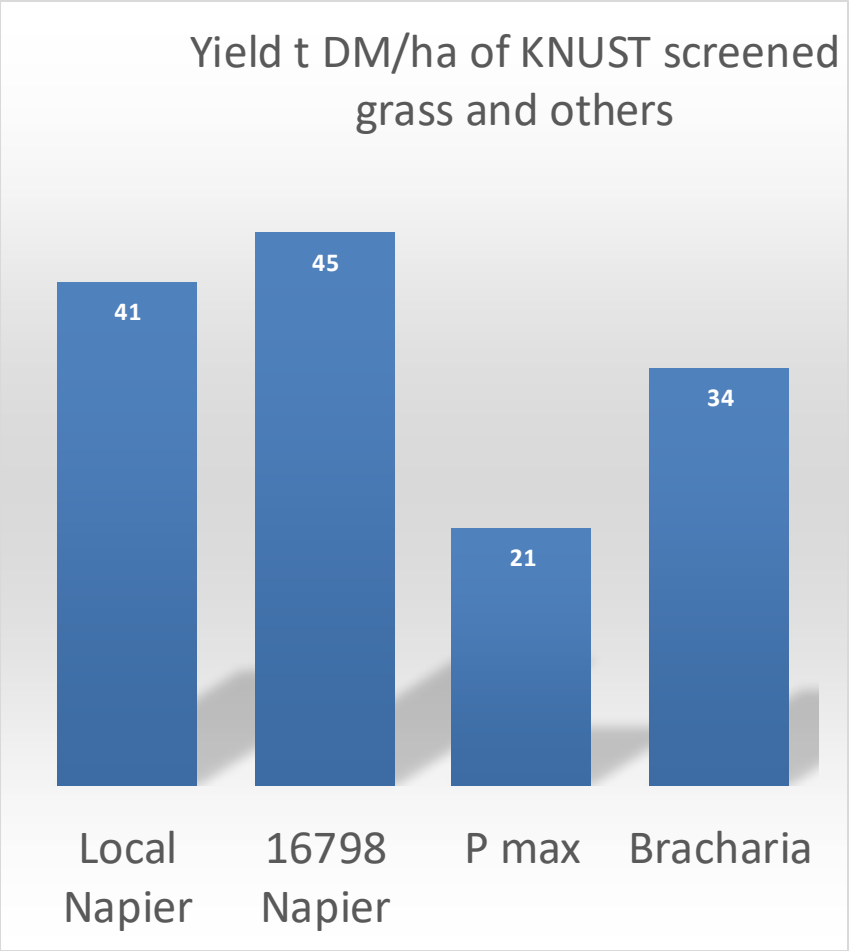
- **The protagonists in the conflict have been identified**
- **Damage to environment, physical and social noted.**
- **Loss of life of humans, cattle and loss of revenue to farmers and Assemblies noted.**
- **New trend of emerging urban cattle production observed.**
- **Traditional methods of control/suppressing conflict not adequate to solve the problem.**

Need for a paradigm shift

- **No need to re-invent the wheel but to:**
  - **learn from other systems and**
  - **adapt what is appropriate to our use.**
  - **Examples of Argentina, USA, Botswana, Kenya and Namibia**

What do we propose?

- 50 ha paddocked colony
- Improved pastures established according to locality.
- Solar-powered bole-holes for watering animals and providing limited irrigation during dry season.



Paddocking grazing systems

Namibia

Shade for cattle

Watering, very important

Capacity building of Herdsmen and Cattle owners.

- Use of Training modules developed by KNUST;
- Managing cattle production as a business,
- records keeping, marketing,
- Forage conservation; hay production.
- Managing hygienic milk processing, role of women and their empowerment.
- FAO Field Schools,
- 25-30 meet regularly and engage in experiential and participatory learning
- TEK employed.

Pastoralist Field Schools in the Horn of African and semi-arid lands

FAO model of Field Schools for Masai nomads

Training on forage production and management for semi arid conditions in Kenya.

Pastoralist Field Schools in the Horn of African and semi-arid lands

Source: Osafo (2016)

Source: FAO

Capacity building of Herdsmen and Cattle owners.

The training sessions would utilize indigenous knowledge of Fulani in cattle management.

For example Tamou et al., 2018) studied the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in making herding decisions by pastoralist in Benin.

- **TEK employed**
- **Pastoralist apply common and combined traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) about soils, forages and livestock characteristics to make herding decision.**

Capacity building of Herdsmen and Cattle owners – cont'd.

- Forage inventory and quality
- Soil type and where to graze
- Nutritional qualities of forages,
- Passing on information to generations on best-practices.
- Fulani herdsmen do not like feedlots or confined feeding because they claim animals will not meet their nutrient requirements.
- Through field schools this notion could change.

Rejuvenating perennial pastures

- Perennial grass and sustainable land management
- Increase perennial composition of degraded pastures.
- Re-sow e.g. elephant grass, Brachiaria and others.

- Assess composition and nutritive value of forages (ILRI, facilitation)
- Adopt management options appropriate to the composition of pastures – reduce weeds.

- Strategic grazing and use of herbicides and fertilizer application and over sowing. eg. MoFA's Stylo.

- Helps even out farm feed needs throughout the year.
- Provides supplementary feeding
- Reduces soil erosion
- Resist weed invasion.

Sustainable animal husbandry/ production

- **Field schools on modern animal production techniques**
- **Farmers to consider animal production as a business rather than perceived source of wealth.**
- **Application of combination of indigenous animal production knowledge and adoption of modern production techniques.**
- **USE OF IMPROVED FORAGE – ILRI TO THE RESCUE.**

- **The paddock grazing system offers a sustainable way of managing cattle for profit and reducing conflict with crop farmers.**

Bibliography

Baidoo, 2014.

Tamou, C., I.J. M. de Boer, R. Ripoll-Bosch and S.J. Oosting. 2018. Animal 12(4):831-843.

Thank you for ....