

# Animal Management Practices and Problems Leading to Crop Animal Conflict in Kamajei, Moyamba District and Kissy Tongi Chiefdoms, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone

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**Abstract:** This survey was carried out between January and March 2021 in two chiefdoms in Sierra Leone, namely Kamajei chiefdom, in Moyamba district, in the South and Kissi Tongi chiefdom, Kailahun district in the East. Both share boundaries with our major sources of livestock supply (Northern Province and Guinea). Kamajei chiefdom had long been involved in livestock farming, with a very large number of worehs and a well-established Management system and structure. Unlike Kissi Tongi chiefdom, there were very few worehs and no structures in place to guide the farmers in preventing conflict. All livestock, crop farmers, and chiefs, form the sampling size. Information was collected in Local languages on land acquisition, management Systems, causes of conflict and how conflict should be resolved. Results showed the following, firstly, 100% of animal rearers acquired land within Kamajei chiefdom by agreement from Land holding families with yearly Payment of Le1,500,000, while in the Kissi Tongi, 60% acquired land by agreement and 40% do not go into any form of agreement. In Kissi Tongi, 80% of the land belongs to the community people and 20% to land holding families. In the Kissi Tongi Chiefdom, 75% of animal rearers were found not to pay for grazing areas, while 20% payed yearly and 5% after every two years for land utilization. In Kamajei chiefdom, on the other hand, 100% of their animals were kept under semi-intensive. While in Kissi Tongi, a100% extensive system was employed. In both chiefdoms, damage to crops was the first cause of conflict between farmers and herders. Crop damage was not limited to damage done to growing crops but included unauthorized grazing of crop residues after harvest. Other causes of conflict reported were access to watering points, expansion of crop fields across corridors for animal passage and thefts of animal. Finally, in Kamajei chiefdom, all crop farmers reported animal farmers for damages done to their crops to authorities to settle damage caused by animals to crops with huge compensation paid, while in Kissi Tongi, 50% don't report any damage to authorities and don't pay for damage while 30% do report to town chiefs and 20% to animal owners for peaceful resolution of the conflict. Moreover, payment for damage done is either directly to crop owners or town chief. In conclusion, although sporadic conflicts were reported, the potential for them to escalate is high if guideline are not instituted within these communities.

**Keywords:** Conflicts, Animal Rearers, Crop Farmers, Compensation Damage

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## 1. Introduction

Social conflict can be broadly defined as the opposition between individuals and groups on the basis of competing

interests, different identities, and/or differing attitudes [1] and is considered not to be limited to violent or confrontational forms of opposition. Although violence may or may not be involved, it is often one of the subjects of special interest. As [2], could put it, "conflict is an ingredient of life". Conflict is

entirely part of all forms of society and its importance should be appreciated in light of stimulating new thoughts, for promoting social change, provoking policy change, for defining group relationships, and for helping us form our own senses of personal identity [3]. Conflict with another group often leads to the mobilization of the energies of group members and hence to increased cohesion of the group.

Having a right attitude to social conflict is therefore necessary for conflict resolution. One of such conflicts is Farmer-herder conflict which remains an enduring feature of social conflict [3].

Agriculture remains the mainstay of any economy especially the economies of developing countries like Sierra Leone [4]. According to [5], the two main branches of agriculture are crop production and animal husbandry that the two branches are dependent on one another both positively and negatively. This is because crops provide feeds to animals and animals supply animal excreta as manure for crop production in a symbiotic relationship. On the other hand, animals can destroy both the crop and environment (land, water, air) if not effectively controlled [6]. As it marks this is usually, the origin of conflict between farmers and cattle herders [7]. It is worthy to note that in the past, agricultural farmers and the pastoralist groups had a cordial and stable relationship that enables them to work side by side for decades. Likewise [8] cited that, Crop farmers and pastoralist have a long heritage and economic relationship, even though there existed sources of disagreement between both groups which were resolved peacefully.

Moreover, the activities of Livestock farmers include the movement of their animals to graze on farmlands [9] which belong to crop farmer while the farmers require from the pastoralist protein in the form of dairy products that are needed for their day-to-day consumption and manure to fertilize their fields. Thus, it becomes apparent that the interdependent linkage flows as each group needs water, land [10] fodder and other land use for their economic activities [11]. This linkage over the years in Sierra Leone have seen a rise in demand for these resources between crop and livestock farmers with accompanied sporadic conflicts between the two farming communities.

According to [12], Over the past twenty years, there have been changes in livestock ownership and management patterns that have increased both the inherent conflicts of interest between crop and livestock farmers, that has the potential to escalate to degenerative conflict. Conflicts of interest have intensified in many areas due to the greater proximity of livestock and cropping during the growing season as a result of a number of reasons including: Firstly, movements of people and shifts of livestock ownership toward the South where Rainfall is more dependable and agricultural pressure is greater. Secondly, a shift in livestock ownership away from historic livestock managers along with a growing dependence on farming by pastoralist peoples, has contributed to a reduction in the seasonal mobility of livestock herds. Finally, the number and nature of social ties between farmers and herding professionals have changed as

livestock wealth has become more concentrated, availability of crop land have declined, and the range of herd movements have shrunk and become more erratic. The nature of livestock husbandry and farmer-herder relations are changing and the potential for conflict management failure increases unless systems of governance change accordingly.

Many have argued that the scarcity of natural resources has led to conflict which is triggered by competition over available resources. Climatic change and increase in human population have put pressure on farmers for available resources to grow crops and rear animals. The effect of the climate has caused a change that is induced by rainfall shifting patterns/amount and desertification, which has reduced croplands and grazing areas. The situation is compounded by a rise in migration patterns of herdsmen in search for grazing land as well as source of water for their animals. The lack of sufficient grazing and cropping lands has also compelled crop farmers and animal rearers to co-exist in close proximities during their farming activity. The increase in demand for animal protein, has also resulted in the rise in the numbers of people involved in animal rearing amidst constraints of increase in the demand for land use. This has led to reports of sporadic conflicts in farming communities in the country between crop farmers and animal rearers. These conflicts if left unabated over time may pose a national security threat which have been reported elsewhere on the continent.

## 2. Methodology

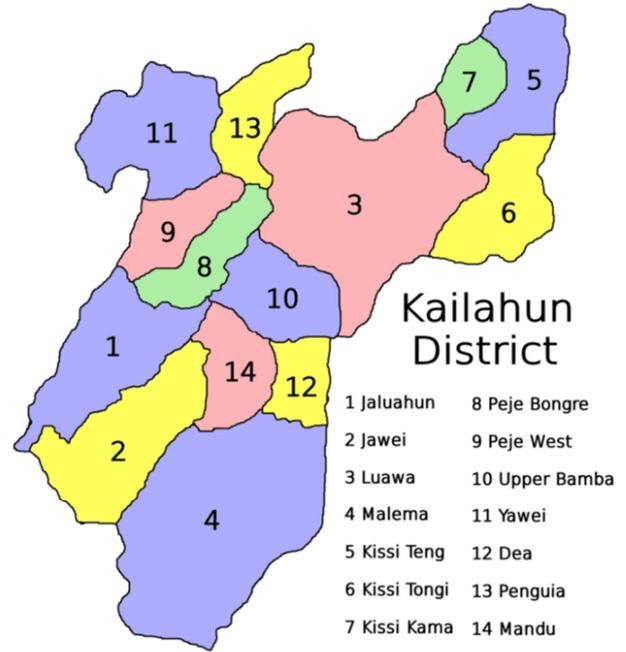
The study was conducted in the two districts namely Moyamba and Kailahun districts. One chiefdom from each of the districts was purposively selected based on their involvement in cattle rearing within the district.

Kamajei Chiefdom in the Moyamba District (Southern Province), with Senahun as the chiefdom headquarters has a population of 10,165 while the Moyamba District as a whole has a population of 318,064 [13] The district is the largest in the Southern Province by geographical area, occupying a total area of 6,902 km<sup>2</sup> (2,665 sq mi) and comprises of fourteen chiefdoms. The district borders the Atlantic Ocean in the west, Port Loko District and Tonkolili District to the north, Bo District to the east and Bonthe District to the south.

The main economic activities include mining (rutile and bauxite), fishing, rice growing and oil palm plantations. The district is one of the most ethnically diverse in Sierra Leone. The Mende people are the largest ethnic group in Moyamba District; However, there is a large population of ethnic minority groups in the district that make up closer to 50% of the population, including the Temne people, Fulani, Sherbro, Kissi, Mandingo, and Kuranko. Moyamba the provincial capital is home to a significantly large population of ethnic Temne minority, as well as the largest ethnic Temne population in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone. Figure 1, below depicts Kamajei Chiefdom.

The Kissi Tongi Chiefdom on the other hand is in the Kailahun District, Eastern Province of Sierra Leone with a

population of 50,950 [13]. The Chiefdoms capital is Buedu. The name "Buedu" is derived from the word meaning an area of rich soil for farming and other agricultural services. Kissi Tongi Chiefdom was once the only chiefdom for all the Kissi area/territory. According to the history of Kissi people, Kailondo, who founded the town of Kailahun, now headquarters of Luawa Chiefdom was once the chief/warrior for the Kissi land. Kailondo ruled Kissi land/chiefdom for many years. In the history of Sierra Leone, Kailondo has been mentioned as one of greatest warriors of all time. Those who have written the history of Sierra Leone said a lot about the great warrior Kailondo when he fought and defeated another warrior, N'dawa. Through the greatness of Kailondo, more land was acquired when he defeated those warriors from the Liberian side. Buedu has been one of the border towns between Sierra Leone and Liberia. Buedu has a central market on Fridays, where people from both Liberia and Sierra Leone meet to transact business.



Source of map. (<https://en.Wikipedia.org>)

**Figure 2.** Map of Kissi tongi chiefdom in Kailahun district, Eastern province of Sierra leone.

The main aim of this study was to critically examine the underlying factors responsible for conflicts between herdsmen and crop farmers, determine cattle management systems, how herdsmen acquire land for grazing of their animals, various causes of conflict and how it is resolved between herders and crop farmers in the study area.

To achieve these objectives, a qualitative method where both semi-structured and focus group discussion was adopted. The essence of the qualitative data collection was to describe, capture and further communicate the respondent's own experiences of a given situation in his or her own words/structure. The interviews conducted enabled me to ask sensible questions and have access to understanding the real-life situation and their experiences during the frequent reoccurrence of conflict between the farmers and herdsmen as well as landowners. Considering the fact that the primary source of data which comprised of farmers, landowners and herdsmen are more likely not to be educated, the interviews were conducted in their local languages with the service of an interpreter. This approach helped the respondents to speak freely and expressed themselves.

### 3. Result and Discussion

Result from Table 1 shows that, within Kamajei chiefdom Moyamba district, land for animals rearing was 100% acquired by agreement from Land holding family with yearly Payment of Le1,500,000, while in Kissi Tongi, 60% of land was acquire by agreement with the remaining 40% not going into agreement. This finding was interesting to note. However, findings also showed that, 80% of the land in Kissi Tongi Chiefdom belonged to the community



**Figure 1.** Map of Kamajei chiefdom, Moyamba district, South of Sierra leone. Source of map (<https://en.wikipedia.org>).

Livestock and Crop farmers, Landowners, Local authorities, Police officers, Youths, Okada riders, and drivers from the study areas formed the sampling frame.

This research was conducted using a qualitative method where both semi-structured and focus group discussion was adopted. The essence of the qualitative data collection was to describe, capture and further communicate the respondent's own experiences of a given situation in his or her own words/structure. The interviews conducted enabled me to ask sensible questions and have access to understanding the real-life situation and their experiences during the frequent reoccurrence of conflict between the farmers and herdsmen as well as landowners. Considering the fact that the primary source of data which comprised of farmers, landowners and herdsmen are more likely not to be educated, the interviews were conducted in their local languages with the service of an interpreter. This approach helped the respondents to speak freely and expressed themselves.

people and 20% to land holding family, which could possibly explain why 40% of the herders did not go into agreements. The contrary was the case in Kamajei chiefdom, where 100% of the land belongs to the Land holding families, which required compensations for utilization of the land by herders. Of those that go into agreement in Kissy Tongi Chiefdom, 75% were shown not to adhere to their obligation of paying land owners, while 20% were shown to

pay yearly and 5% after every two years for land utilization. The demand for payment for utilization of land by land owners conforms with previous reports by [14] in Sierra Leone, where farmers were required to pay a token amount of their proceeds in return for the utilisation of the land, as a means of forestalling future claims to land. However, [15], emphasized the problems associated with such a payment versus a more economically sound arrangement.

*Table 1. Methods of land acquisition by herders in the study area.*

QUESTIONS	KAMAJEI CHIEFDOM	KISSI TONGI CHIEFDOM
Land commitment	100% by agreement	60% have while 40% don't have an agreement
Ownership pattern	100% belong to Land holding families	80% Community, 20% Land holding families
Compensation made to land owners	100% made yearly Payment to bush owners	75% don't, 20% made yearly and 5% made payment after every two years

Source of data: 2021 Survey.

Result from Table 2. Revealed that, within Kamajei chiefdom Moyamba District, 100% of animals were kept under semi-intensive system. It was also found that 75% of the herders follow their animals to gaze, as well as provided supplementary foods, animals move in search of food freely for an average daily hour of nine, and had shelter for their

animals. Contrary to this, in Kissy Tongi, 100% of herders practiced the extensive system and don't follow their animals out to gaze. The negative impact of this practice was evident from narratives of various respondents in this chiefdom that were involved in crop farming by animals destroying their cropping fields.

*Table 2. Management systems as a cause of conflict.*

QUESTIONS	KAMAJEI CHIEFDOM	KISSI TONGI CHIEFDOM
System of management	100% semi-intensive	100% extensive system
Good feeding	100% of cattle farmers provide feed for their animals, with 75% follow their animals to graze	100% of cattle farmers don't provide feed for their animals and 100% don't follow their animals to graze

Source of data: 2021 survey.

Result from Table 3. Shows that, within Kamajei chiefdom, Moyamba district there was 75% free movement of animals while Kissy Tongi, Kailahun district had 100% movement of animals within their rearing zone. Moreover, the two chiefdoms had 100% presence of farms around cattle grazing areas and 100% damaged done to crops by animals. Likewise, Kamajei chiefdom had 65% of their water sources polluted, household properties and fences of the community people damaged. Kissy

Tongi on the other hand, had 100% of their sources of water polluted, household properties and fences of the community people damaged. This finding is consistent with reports by [7] that associated the causes of conflict between herders and crop farmers in Nigeria to be associated with immediate and remote causes. The immediate causes identified included: destruction of crops by cattle, contamination of drinking water sources and sexual harassment of women by herders.

*Table 3. Damage caused leading to conflict.*

QUESTIONS	KAMAJEI CHIEFDOM	KISSI TONGI CHIEFDOM
Presence of farms	100% yes	100% yes
Movement of animals	75% free movement	100% free movement
Damage to crops	100% fed and damaged crops	100% fed and damaged crops
Damage to environment	65% of their water sources Polluted, household properties and fences of the community people damaged	100% of their water sources Polluted, household properties and fences of the community people damaged Polluted our sources of water and damaged fences

Source of data: 2021 survey.

Result from Table 4. Shows that, within Kamajei chiefdom Moyamba district, 100% of crop farmers reported animal farmers for damages done to their crops to either the Paramount chief, Town chief or Section chief to settle cost of damage in the form of huge sum as compensation. In Kissy Tongi, on the other hand, 50% don't report any damage to authorities and don't pay for damage while 30% do report to town chief and only 20% to animal owners for peaceful resolution. Moreover, payment for

damage done is either directly to crop owners or town chief. These methods of conflict resolution were in agreement with [16], who said the disagreements between herder and farming communities in Nigeria used to be solved by negotiations and usually the heads of villages and herder communities agreed on simple solutions such as a herder must compensate the damage in a farm if he couldn't control his animals and prevent them damaging the growing crops.

**Table 4.** Ways in which conflict was resolved.

QUESTIONS	KAMAJEI CHIEFDOM	KISSI TONGI CHIEFDOM
Conflict resolving	100% of crop farmers report damages done to either of their traditional rulers (Paramount chief, Town chief or Section chief)	30% report to town chief, 20% to Livestock farmers and 50% don't report any damage to authorities
Payment for damage.	100% payed cash directly to Chiefs.	50% payed cash directly to crop owners while 50% didn't pay any compensation.

Source of data: 2021 Survey.

## 4. Conclusion

The study was conducted in two districts namely Moyamba and Kailahun districts in the Southern and Eastern regions of Sierra Leone respectively. The paper established recurrent clashes between the farmers and cattle herders. Finding in the study revealed that in the Kamajei chiefdom Moyamba district, 100% of animals rearers were found to acquire land through an agreement with land holding family with yearly Payment of Le1,500,000, while in Kissi Tongi, 60% acquire land by agreement while 40% do not go into any agreement with land owners. It was also found that 80% of the land belongs to the community people and 20% to land holding family. Likewise, 75% were found not to pay, while 20% pay yearly and 5% after every two years for land utilization.

As regards to management systems in the Kamajei chiefdom, 100% of the animals are found to be given supplementary foods, and moved freely in search of food for an average daily hour of nine and brought back after feeding, with 75% of herders following them (semi-Intensive System). While in Kissi Tongi, 100% were found not to follow, feed or monitor the movement of their animals (extensive system).

In Kamajei chiefdom, 100% of crop farmers reported damages done to their crops to local court with huge sum of money payed in compensation by the animal rearer, while in Kissi Tongi, only 10% pay for damage done. Crop and animal rearers both have a very poor relationship with each other, due to damage done to crops during grazing by the animal. As regards methods of conflict resolution, 100% of crop farmers in the Kamajei chiefdom, report animal farmers for damages done to their crops to either the Paramount chief, Town chief or Section chief to resolve conflicts resulting from damages caused by grazing animals, in the form of huge compensations, while in Kissi Tongi, 50% don't report any damage to authorities and don't pay for damage, while 30% do to town chiefs and only 20% to animal owners for peaceful resolution. Moreover, payment for damage done is either directly to crop owners or town chief.

Inclusion, although sporadic conflicts were reported, the potential for them to escalate is high if guideline are not instituted within these communities.

## 5. Recommendation

The following recommendations were made by all parties in Kamajei Chiefdom,

- i. The number of woredah should be reduced on our land.
- ii. We should negotiate the planting season.
- iii. Each crop owner should fence his/her crops and assisted by Cattle owners.
- iv. Government should enforce by-laws.
- v. Crop owners should report directly to cattle owners any damage caused by animals
- vi. Crop owners should harvest all crops before dry season.
- vii. The land should be divided into two, with crop owners on one side and cattle owners on the other side.
- viii. Government should provide vet. services for us
- ix. Government should provide fencing materials for animal owners.

While Kissi Tongi suggested that,

- i. Restrict animal movement.
- ii. They should honor all agreements between them,
- iii. Crop farmers and community people.
- iv. Should be involved in the structuring of the bye laws Rear animals in fences
- v. Raise small ruminants in pens and honor agreement with land owners.
- vi. Control of small ruminants from going to other communities.
- vii. Encourage community to be involved in Animal rearing.
- viii. Should control their animals at all times.
- ix. To fence our farm lands during cropping season.
- x. To allocate land for crop farming should have bye – laws that should affect both groups.

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