



Available Online at EScience Press Journals

# International Journal of Agricultural Extension

ISSN: 2311-6110 (Online), 2311-8547 (Print)

<http://www.esciencepress.net/IJAE>

## FAMILIARIZING LIVESTOCK ADVISORY SERVICES TO REDUCE CATTLE RAIDING IN SOUTH SUDAN

**<sup>a</sup>James D. A. Ajak\*, Kursat Demiryurek**<sup>a</sup> *Agricultural and Natural Resources Economics, Faculty of Animal Production, Upper Nile University – South Sudan.*<sup>b</sup> *Department of Agricultural Economics, Ondokuz Mayıs University, Samsun, Turkey.*

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history

Received: 19.12.2020

Revised: 01.03.2021

Accepted: 15.03.2021

#### Keywords

Advisory Services

Cattle Raiding

NGOs

Conflict

Extension

### ABSTRACT

In South Sudan, cattle raiding is an enduring practice among many communities and leads by cultural norms and customs. The issue has become challenging to the development of the livestock sector in the country. For the last 5-6 years 2015 to 2020, thousands of cattle heads were stolen from the cattle camps, many lives were lost during the raid, and many developmental projects were immobile. Extension in reducing cattle raiding has been seen as significant by the government, community chiefs of the rural areas, youth leaders, women, and NGOs working in the livestock sector. The improvement of the extension's role is an essential factor for reducing cattle raids among South Sudan communities. The extension can bring development opportunities, facilities, and empowerment. Accordingly, by reviewing the literature, this paper fact out which asset is necessary to reduce cattle raids. Also, the paper examines how an extension could mitigate cattle raiding through mediation. The recompenses of extension as the solution for competing cattle raids have been emphasized. The paper recommends that advisory service should have extensive training program on. on social change, building resilience through community-enhancing livelihoods, and shifting their mindsets from cattle raiding to accumulate wealth to ensure productive asset creation. The Advisory services should work as alarming tools for any expected raiding casualties in their working area.

*Corresponding Author: James D.A. Ajak**Email: drfounjames@gmail.com**© The Author(s) 2021.*

### INTRODUCTION

South Sudan is described to have enormous livestock resources assessed at nearby 11.7 million heads of cattle, 12.4 million heads of goats, and 12.1 million heads of sheep, putting South Sudan as number six in Africa (Wild *et al.*, 2018). Additionally, in South Sudan, 85% of the families practice livestock farming.in pastoral and agro-pastoral activities (FAO, 2015). Given this significant livestock population in the region, cattle keepers and agricultural populations are faced with frequent cattle raiding (Agriculture and Livestock Extension Task Force, 2011). Cattle raiding habits of

pastoral tribes in South Sudan, like many other tribes in Africa, the tribes typically fought for resources and engaged in cattle raiding activities that also caused inter-tribal conflict cycles (Leff, 2009). Cattle raiding has been an issue among pastoralist communities in South Sudan for centuries. Generations of conflict have made raiding much more dangerous, with youth raiders using machine guns and machetes. National organizations report that more significant than 5,000 people had been murdered in cattle raiding since South Sudan gained independence (MAF; MARF, 2011). Before secession, South Sudan has long been faced with violence linked to

historical traditional cattle raiding amongst the pastoral communities. Such conflicts have grown more aggressive, both attributable to the ubiquitous existence of small weapons and the national army's apparent vulnerable keepers' groups – Dinka, Nuer, and Mundari – have traditionally been involved in regular conflict and assaults against each other, mainly for cattle robbery and the creation of domination by cowboys, wealth generation, social standing, and the revenge of previous attacks (Jackson, 2011). However, the nature, scale, and severity of such brutality has changed over the last three decades and continues to develop as new forces and conflict drivers emerge from civil wars (Wild *et al.*, 2018).

### **The approaches of agriculture and livestock extension used in South Sudan**

The following briefly summarizes the different approaches to the extension that have been used in South Sudan.

#### **The approach of the Group Development Zone**

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, this method was used, involving dealing with a large number of groups. It allowed extension services to reach difficult areas to implement and other policy projects closely linked to farming, livestock, and agriculture (MAF; MARF, 2011).

#### **Challenges in carrying services to the communities in remote areas**

Heavy dependency on the government and donors; The approach presumed that all farmers were facing similar problems and were working in a homogeneous climate.

#### **Method of Training and Visits**

This approach aimed to improve agricultural and livestock extension services' productivity through preparation, supply, and administrative structures.

Farming and livestock practices from foreign and national research centres have been converted into packets to be transferred from Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) to agricultural and livestock extension officers who have adapted recommendations to their particular areas before moving them to extension staff at the village level who have then passed them on to the contact farmer and community of farmers (IFAD, 2018).

#### **The traditional extension system**

It is the standard top-down extension technique where the extension worker is the center of the extension work. Only a knowledgeable citizen, by shifting extension teaching and training to what his/her training has taught him/her. In this approach, farmers were seen as passive beneficiaries who had no input in the debates. Innovation kits have been predetermined for this approach, and there were no alternate options for the recipients.

Since 1974, this mechanism has made the recipients entirely reliant on the government or organization that provides extension services.

#### **Commodity-focused strategy**

Between 1950s to 1970s the techniques was used based on single cash-promoting crops, such as coffee, tea, cotton, and the inputs needed for timely harvesting (MAF; MARF, 2011).

#### **Farmer Books**

Small booklets detailing farm management actions related to specific businesses, such as tomatoes and potatoes, were useful extension knowledge sources. Individuals and groups may access data locally and at their convenience in this way. However, the topics covered by such publications are limited and did not satisfy farmers' needs (FAO, 2019).

#### **Community-Based Extension Worker (CBEW) and Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW)**

The security of livestock was considered fundamental during the war and under the coordination of emergency programs. During this emergency time, mass vaccination campaigns and training were carried out/were provided/ to hundreds of CBEW who ran a successful campaign to eradicate pests and later continued to provide services to livestock keepers (Athman *et al.*, 2009).

In Africa, more so South Sudan, CAHW were successful in pastoral areas for decades. CAHW model has been the most prolonged and probably the essential livestock extension operation. Public support for CAHWs is slowing, and solutions need to be found to retain the structure and potentially extend the operations of CAHWs as service providers.

#### **Existing Extension Network for Agriculture and Livestock Status and the Challenges**

The extension is provided via the public extension (run by the state), civil society and NGOs' acute care services. An extension framework for the private sector has not yet been experienced in South Sudan. Government does not have the ability to provide to provide reliable and proficient extension services. It is moderately due to the lack of well-trained and qualified extension workers at the state and bomas level.

Additionally, there are few agents available who performs broad/wide range of tasks such as (distribution of inputs, resolving local disputes between farmers, and acting as an agricultural agent of the local government) is a broad range of tasks to be performed.

There is a deficiency of information and expertise for stakeholders in the broader field of extension, including agribusiness, marketing, and integrating cross-cutting problems in their work program. In remote areas where they lack transport, earn low pay, have insufficient technical support and moral support, receive minimal in-service training, and perceive little career development opportunities, most extension agents continue their work.

Extension operations have been, in many cases, carried out by organizations running relief efforts, and extension packages are often restricted to supplying farm inputs with practical instructions for their use. Many Extension Service Providers (ESPs) lack sufficiently qualified staff and work resources to improve service quality.

The new extension activities aim to help farmers increase the productivity. The socio-economic conditions under which farmers work have not been considered in agriculture and livestock production. The current extension efforts aimed at helping farmers to increase agriculture and livestock are:

- 1) The Active Capability Programme for Sudan (SPCRP);
- 2) Project Funding for the Development of Agriculture and Forestry (SAFDP); and
- 3) Project for the Development of Livestock and Fisheries (LFDP) through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF).

Nevertheless, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) introduces a partnership between the Government of South Sudan and the European Commission in five Western states, namely: Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Warrap, Lakes, and Western Equatoria. In the regard of Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile Counties, the SAFDP/MDTF introduced by MAF and

the Norwegian People's Assistance (NPA). These projects have invested in institutional and human resources building capacity to provide agricultural and livestock advisory services. It is critical and urgent that agricultural and livestock extension policies be finalized and made available.

### **Methods of using Advisory Services to Reduce Cattle Raiding**

It is not likely undervaluing the significance of cattle in South Sudanese values. They are seen as the crucial indicator of an individual's capital, status and are usually given as a bride price to a woman's family in terms of gifts ranging from fewer than ten to several hundred. Following years of conflicts, many arms are common and this has resulted to many traditional dispute and clashes over cattle. Chilvers (2016) in a case study of preventing cattle raiding violence in South Sudan, Grassroots peace building initiatives and dialogue focusing on youths have made efforts resolving cattle raiding problem. Through this initiative, youth ambassadors were nurtured to spearhead and spread messages of peace to the communities. Despite the impact of the peace building initiatives and dialogue, the country continues to witness wide spread cattle raiding and conflicts amongst the pastoral communities. Using the advisory services to tackle the problem is not a substitute to the law authority yet due to the failure of the rule of law in the country, the paper argues that as the extension services always brings development it could be significant in making peace because agro-pastoralism is the key livelihood system in rural areas (Idris, 2018). The departments of the extension in the federal and state level in South Sudan are government institution and have the mandate to carry on the development tasks across the country. For instance, in Pakistan, there are an expected 22,500 agricultural extension specialists giving agricultural extension services that would give the chance to the extension system to operate successfully in the process of conflict management in the rural areas (Olson and Robertson, 2012). Advisory services have delivered facilities in many countries that seek solutions for the difficulties brought by conflict. For instance, in South Sudan, land conflicts between farmers and cattle keepers are common. Extension workers supported by NGOs have cooperated with land registry specialists to solve such land disagreements. This method might be suitable address the issue of cattle

raising among cattle keepers in the country if some models are added to it. Similarly, in Kenya, extension workers were in charge for supporting communities in reintegrating the IDPs created during the post-election crisis of 2007 and 2008 (Olson and Robertson, 2012). Evaluating the situation of the two countries extension systems have made changes in what they do to address detailed problems formed by conflict. However, they have not built an extension system that is flexible and responsive enough to change the problems emerged.

### **The extension as a tool to use in reducing cattle raiding**

Though many programs and conferences have been conducted among the pastoralist communities. Cattle raiding practices/norms has not stopped despite several peace initiatives programs and conference. The country continues to witness increasing conflicts attributed to other factors. Extension programs and services can be applied as a tool to inspire a sense of reducing cattle raiding and peacebuilding. The solution forward-looking in this work is to implement multitrack peace-making determinations. Internal administration, cross-cultural collaboration, and increased state accountability to those found guilty can contribute to positive peace. Altogether, cooperation is essential at both a communal and a regional level. A bottom-up approach that focuses on corroding the cycle of negative reciprocity and replacing it with a transformative framework focused on healing, inclusiveness, learning from the experience, and overall cultural openness must change to take regular interactions place. Familiarising extension would fundamentally progress extension workers' ability to manage conflict in rural areas. To achieve that will require creating the capacity to diagnose and respond flexibly to conflict as it materializes in different communities.

### **The extension as an approach to social change**

Societal changes in rural areas in South Sudan need new approaches to agricultural extension. Only by moving improved technologies from government research institutes to farmers.

Many agricultural extension organizations fail to contribute to agricultural production.

Concerning development technology, a great deal of attention must be paid to high-value crop and animal technologies (McLean, 2007).

Many farmers are reasonably well-informed on the crop production technologies they have been developing for decades, but less so on the latest high-value crop or animal technologies. For most extension agents, teaching farmers to grow these crops and animals on specialist farms requires new knowledge and may require education and training in a few crops or animals' production (Rudramoorthy, 1964).

### **Extension role in Conflicts management**

Extension agents provides their customers with knowledge by either teaching what they know or placing farmers in contact with other experts who can solve their problems. It should be anticipated that agents in a conflict or post-conflict climate would provide experts with access to the various problems facing such farming communities (Olson and Robertson, 2012).

The agricultural extension used various methods that differed according to the degree to which development was emphasized rather than individuals. Besides, the historical view indicates that production promotion was much of the time concerned with agricultural extension. It then used top-down approaches to conflict management such as forcing, legalizing, and smoothing.

### **Extension's Part in Conflict Resolution and Training**

It believes that if agricultural expansion wants to safeguard its vital position in agricultural production and management of natural resources, it should concern individuals and use participatory or bottom-up approaches such as consensus and problem-solving approaches to conflict management to achieve sustainable development. As per recent discussions, to resolve social and environmental issues such as conflict management and natural resource management, improvements in agricultural extension efforts are essential (Schutz and Ayres, 2005).

These problems need an open approach to creating strategies to draw on conflict management to change the situation quickly. The Conflict Management Approach (CMA) has therefore been described as promising strategies to resolve deficiencies in dominant models of agricultural extensions, such as conflicts of interest in sustainable agriculture and management of natural resources (Mutamba, 2004).

In line with this philosophy, conflict management's approach needs to shift towards consensus with many stakeholders. Besides, the approach to conflict

management primarily aims to alter cognition, hoping to improve social practice. To contribute to this process, the agricultural extension must also have the capacity and versatility to respond to the ongoing negotiation of its position in society. There seems to be a lack of conceptual structure for an agricultural extension concerning conflict resolution, given the growing concern about conflict and social implications and the rising criticism of dominant agricultural extension. How does the Extension cope with these challenges? How does it deal with issues that arise? Moreover, how in the future will agricultural expansion accommodate a new approach to conflict management? The following will describe some extension frameworks and tools to help build on these (Olson and Robertson, 2012).

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

When looking at causes of cattle raiding in South Sudan, it is acknowledged that several factors such as poverty, costly marriages, remarriage procedures, lucrative cattle industry, lack of jobs, rivalry for scarce resources, and revenge attacks. It is supported by Jackson (2011) results, who discovered that high livestock demand fuels cattle raiding. As a result, the pastoralists' behaviour of stealing livestock is shaped by societal background factors such as personal, social motivation, and knowledge as shown in the reasoned action theory (Fishbein and Ajzen, 2011) and supported by the study of (Collier and Hoeffler, 2005).

The following will describe some extension frameworks and tools that will help in knowledge building. Extension programs have improved what they do to fix particular issues caused by the conflict in South Sudan and Kenya. Some extension programs have established services that resolve persistent issues caused by or leading to the conflict. For instance, land disputes between agriculture and pastoral communities are endemic in South Sudan. The extension agent has been trained to handle disputes; extension agents have worked with land registry specialists. Extension agents are also responsible for helping communities to reintegrate the IDPs created during the 2007 and 2008 post-selection crisis in Kenya (Olson and Robertson, 2012). Extension programs have to fix particular issues caused by the conflict. However, they have not developed an extension framework that is versatile and adequately sensitive to the evolving issues that arise from a conflict-exiting society. Although IDPs

may be the immediate issue, society may face a different issue a year later.

As they advance and know what to do in response, extension agents need to detect farmers' new needs. Agents already have large roles, and it is impossible to expect them to become specialists in all areas of peacebuilding. Instead, we agree that agents need to be prepared to carry out brief conflict evaluations to understand what kind of peace programs to implement (Olson and Robertson, 2012). To make the extension more suitable for reducing cattle riads, particularly in South Sudan, a new framework needs to be implemented in extension methodology. Firstly, the development of training that helps extension agents to diagnose conflict types. Secondly, the adaptation of knowledge to keep agents up-to-date on the breadth of knowledge available to them in peacebuilding and conflict management. Thirdly, the decentralization of extension systems that enable local communities to offer made-to-order services.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The paper aims to focus on extension interventions in reducing cattle raids in South Sudan. Assuming extension approaches are a method of conflict management and peacebuilding. The findings indicate that the extension could include third-party initiatives to minimize cattle raiding and improve development programs. The assumptions recommended and proposed that the extension needs to address conflict management approach in its philosophy. Another aspect of the strategy for intervening in conflicts is that the extension agent must speak the local languages for better communication.

### REFERENCES

- Agriculture and Livestock Extension Task Force. 2011. National Agriculture and Livestock Extension, Policy (NALEP) <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/ssd150787.pdf>.
- Athman, M., J. Banak, C. Purna, B. Simon, K. Louis, A. David and A. Mark. 2009. Situational Assessment of Community Based Animal Health Workers in Western Equatoria, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes and Warrap States, Southern Sudan. The Sudan

- Productive Capacity Recovery Programme. Juba: OSRO/SUD/623/MUL, FAO, Juba-South Sudan
- Chilvers, R. 2016. Preventing Cattle Raiding Violence in South Sudan: Local level peace building focusing on young people. [www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org).
- Collier, P. and A. Hoeffler. 2005. Resource Rents, Governance, and Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 49: 625-33.
- FAO. 2015. South Sudan Livestock Crisis: Update, August 2015. [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/emergencies/docs/FAOSS%20Livestock%20Crisis%20Update%202015.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/docs/FAOSS%20Livestock%20Crisis%20Update%202015.pdf).
- . 2019. Introduction to Farmer Field Schools. A Reader for Institutions of Higher Learning. .
- Fishbein, M. and I. Ajzen. 2011. *Predicting and Changing Behavior* Psychology Press.
- Idris. 2018. Livestock and conflict in South Sudan. K4D Helpdesk Report.
- IFAD. 2018. IFAD South Sudan. [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714182/40258201/PCRVS\\_SLDLP\\_SouthSudan\\_2018.pdf](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714182/40258201/PCRVS_SLDLP_SouthSudan_2018.pdf).
- Jackson, F. K. 2011. Cows-for-Bride Inflation Spurs Cattle Theft in South Sudan. *Bloomberg News*. Retrieved from: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2011-07-26/cows-for-bride-inflation-spurs-cattle-theft-among-mundari-in-south-sudan>.
- Leff, J. 2009. Pastoralists at war: Violence and security in the Kenya-Sudan-Uganda border region. *International Journal of Conflict and Violence (IJCV)*, 3: 188-203.
- MAF; MARF. 2011. Ministry Of Agriculture Forestry and Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries Agriculture and Livestock Extension Task Force, Juba National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Policy (NALEP) <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/ssd150787.pdf>.
- McLean, S. 2007. University Extension and Social Change: Positioning a University of the People in Saskatchewan. *Adult Education Quarterly*, 58: 3-21.
- Mutamba, E. 2004. Community Participation in Natural Resources Management: Reality or Rhetoric? *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, 99: 105-13.
- Olson, S. and A. Robertson. 2012. *Adapting Agricultural Extension to Peacebuilding: Report of a Workshop by the National Academy of Engineering and United States Institute of Peace: Roundtable on Technology, Science, and Peacebuilding* National Academies Press.
- Rudramoorthy, B. 1964. *Extension in Planned Social Change, the Indian Experience*.
- Schutz, M. M. and J. S. Ayres. 2005. Extension's Role in Conflict Resolution and Consumer Education. *Journal of Applied Poultry Research*, 14: 406-13.
- Wild, H., J. M. Jok and R. Patel. 2018. The militarization of cattle raiding in South Sudan: how a traditional practice became a tool for political violence. *Journal of International Humanitarian Action*, 3.