

Livestock Farming in Transition: An Analysis of Federal Government Influence in Akobo County, Jonglei State

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Abstract

The people of Akobo County, who mostly depend on pastoralism and the raising of cattle expected to see a considerable improvement in their standard of living with the introduction of the federal system of government, which was intended to bring governance closer to the people. These expectations were not met by the actuality, which was noticeably different. Their customs have been surprisingly curtailed by government rules, which have limited how much space their cattle can have and move. These limitations have been made worse by widespread livestock rustling and lack of proper veterinary infrastructure, which is necessary to preserve the wellbeing and production of their animals. The expected advantages of a federal governing structure have been thwarted by this situation, which has also actively worsened the living standards and financial stability of the residents of Akobo County. This study was conducted against this backdrop to analyze the influence of the federal system of government on livestock production among the communities in Akobo County, Jonglei State. The study found that the influence of the federal system of government in livestock production policy, level of capacity building, investment in the veterinary program for livestock rearing, the reduction in cattle rustling and raiding and provision of marketing linkages and information to livestock producers has been insufficient to the people of Akobo County. The study recommends a collaboration on the creation and execution of policies and programs among the state government, the federal government and the people of Akobo for the sake of cattle production. Building the ability of livestock owners, boosting veterinary care spending, resolving security issues with cattle rustling and raiding, and enhancing market access and information for livestock producers are some of the things that fall under this category. To effectively address the issues of the sector and encourage sustainable growth in livestock production in Akobo County, Jonglei State, bespoke solutions involving active community and livestock owner engagement would also be necessary.

Key Words: *South Sudan, Pastoralism, Livestock Production, Federalism, Akobo County, Jonglei State*

Introduction

The concept of federalism is technically defined as a division of power and authority, responsibility and authority between federal and state governments. Ethiopia's federal design happens to have several anomalies interesting to or for comparative (Tesfa, 2014). One of the major themes in studies of federalism could be why the federal government succeed in other countries and seemed to be failing in other countries (Burgess, 2011) Both the finance, supply, and demand of basic services are largely determined at the local level in big federation systems of government like the United States and Canada. There have been instances of the upper echelons of government pooling and dividing revenue earned in this manner (Khemani, 2001). The descriptions of responsibilities are commonly employed under fiscal federalism's economic rules and are typical practice in other decentralized countries across the world. According to the general economic theory of fiscal federalism, the provision of livelihood services can be fairly done by the lowest tiers of governments in terms of cost and benefit because the lower tiers of governments have more information and are more familiar with local conditions, and thus can provide services that are better and more relevant to the local context and the needs of the local population. The adoption of a federal court by the United States of America in 1787 is frequently referred to be the first modern federation. Historically, the South Sudan region was dominated by chieftains and loose ethnic groupings that occupied specific areas at specific times. The federal government, in general, is a distinct species in which neither the federal government nor its constituent units of government are legally subordinate to one another, i.e., each has sovereign powers derived from the law

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rather than from another level of government, each is empowered to deal directly with citizens in the exercise of its legislative, executive, and taxing power, and each is directly elected by its citizens. Many nations across the world, including regional and international organizations like the European Union, may have been influenced by the success of the federal government in the United States of America (Arato and Von, 2018)

German federal system may offer the right examples to the federal governing systems in South Sudan. Modern-day federal Germany dated back to its establishments on two important times post-World War two period and that of Cold War. Establishments of the German federation in both times were occasioned by the critical legal process and procedure followed by the action. Federalism happened to be an important instrument and mean of the nation after the failure and collapse of European colonial empires immediately after the post-World War two time (Little & Watt, 1994).

The significance of federalism is found in the community itself, not in its legitimacy or institutional frameworks. The federal government is a tool for articulating and protecting the society's federal traits (Livingston, 1989). While the idea that federal institutions are essentially instruments or representations of federal societies is a useful counterpoint to purely legal and institutional assessments, it is also too one-sided and simplifies causal linkages. Constitutions and institutions shaped societies in the past by acting as a channel (Cairns, 1977). Therefore, the federal system of governance defines the basic arrangement and structures of many governments around the world including the USA, which is considered to constitutionally create a compromise to share the powers and authorities among the different tiers of governments and institutions. In most cases, the government doesn't have a religion or doesn't pursue any policy, including the foreign policy based on religion.

In Latin America and the entire region where the livestock programme continues to make up the major survival strategies mostly in rural. Livestock is not only the main survival means in a rural area but it's also the source of generating income. The focus is mostly on livelihood which is considered to be the central development programme in many countries. Eastern African countries have the largest variety and number of pastoral societies. It is believed that the pastoralist community occupies almost seventy percent of the Kenyan mainland, half of the Ethiopian land, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The pastoralists in Eastern Africa are considered a minority as they lead a different way of life in terms of culture, value, and language. Pastoralists' lifestyles are considered incompatible with those of the majority of the population from those who lead a settled life (Bonfiglioli and Watson, 1992).

Literature Review

Galyean, Ponce & Schutz (2011) argue that the involvement of the government in livestock farming varies depending on the country. In the United States and Canada, for example, the government plays a role in managing public lands that are used for grazing by ranchers. In Mexico, approximately 40% of arable land is privately owned, while the remaining 60% is common land with undefined ownership and variable management practices. For Galyean, Ponce & Schutz (2011) the government also has a role in regulating and overseeing the livestock industry to ensure animal welfare and food safety. This includes setting standards and regulations for animal care, enforcing rules to prevent animal abuse, and monitoring and regulating the use of antibiotics and other medications in livestock. Additionally, the government may provide support and assistance to livestock farmers through subsidies, grants, and other programs aimed at promoting sustainable and efficient farming practices (Galyean, Ponce & Schutz, 2011).

Livestock sector-related policies and regulations include: animal feed and breeding thus associated with an increment of production, productivity, and products and case in point is the government of Sudan with its five-year national strategic plan development plan and programme (2007-2011) before South Sudan independence. The livestock plays important role in food production and security is fundamentally handled at the household level. Even if the hunger and malnutrition in the region are not caused by the scarcity and inadequate availability of food but rather by limited economic opportunity accessible to a majority of households (FAO, 2013). Therefore, it is important to emphasize the importance of livestock in production mostly to small-scale and medium producers. In Brazil family, subsistence farming provides 58% of milk and milk products, 50% of the poultry, 59% of the pork, and 30% of the beef consumes in the country. Likewise, the majority of South American countries like Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, and Ecuador these countries believe that livestock has an important role the livestock play in generating income for poor community members in the region and increasing the availability and accessibility to food security. With effective policy reforms supported by good programmes, long-term sustainability livelihood can be realized as well as the output of the agro-pastoralist sector.

The regulation tool helping the livelihood production policy objective includes programme, regulation, decree, laws, projects, etc. Interact within and between each other through a policy shouldn't be confused with programmes or projects. (Osuji, Fernández Rivera & Odenyo, 1995; ILRI, 1995; Norton, 2004). Asymmetric data is inherently incomplete, and its absence from the market locks the poor into low-return portfolios, preventing them from favorably reacting to price signals and efficiently distributing their limited resources (De Janvry and Sadoulet, 2005). According to Dorward et al., (2004a, 2004b), taking into account the unique

characteristics of livestock farming as well as the extensive literature on poverty traps. It is believed that livestock policies would be more pro-poor if they incorporated methods for creating the essentials for livestock production, kicking-starting domestic livestock markets, and supporting and developing livestock markets, provided a functional macroeconomic and institutional framework.

According to Ferrier & Lamb (2007) government regulation played a critical role in shaping the beef industry in the US. In the late 19th century, technological developments led to a highly concentrated meatpacking industry and the development of a national market for beef. To ensure quality uniformity in this national market, regulations were implemented, including the USDA grading system. However, the USDA grading system had inadequacies that led to poor incentives for quality improvement in beef production. This, along with information problems, resulted in a decline in beef quality. The government also implemented a generic advertising program, which did little to address concerns about quality. In recent years, there have been efforts to address these issues, with private programs creating their own standards and the USDA acting as an independent auditor. These changes have led to a rebound in beef demand (Ferrier & Lamb, 2007).

Henry et al., (2012) contends that the involvement of the federal government in livestock farming in Switzerland includes financial support for sustainable agriculture, which helps maintain small, diversified farms. Henry et al., (2012) found out the government's support allows these farms to continue operating. However, there is also a trend towards larger specialized farms in Switzerland, similar to other countries, resulting in a decrease in the number of farms and an increase in farm sizes. The government also sets regulations, such as maximum stock levels for meat and egg production, to limit the number of animals per farm.

Pastoralists basically keep cattle for their social and economic livelihoods. They are largely found throughout the world, however in Africa especially in semi-arid and arid areas. Livestock keepers constitute between 12 & 16 percent of the total population in the region. Most of these policies and programmes focus on technical fixes and disregarding institutions i.e., documentation leaving many livestock owners undocumented and presents a missed opportunity as the CAADP livestock programmes require. Livestock is also a consistent supply of animal food sources thus providing an important supplement diversity to stable plant-based diets which are mediated through various channels such as increased cash and reduced drudgery as well as other issues that may assist family members to access animal proteins (Aklilu et al., 2008).

Livestock as a monetary measure contributes to cash income particularly in the pastoral areas as the review available for IGAD regions or areas suggests. It is also one of the many assets of households though many do participate in crop agriculture (Ellis and Bahiigwa, 2003). However, others do specialize in animal production though on a rare scale where well-off households do benefit from both livestock and livestock production while less well-off families do marginally participate in Livestock markets (Corbett, 2009). In the area of Marketing and Agro-Processing policy, the government of Uganda through its initiative of Uganda Marketing and Agro-Processing Policy 2005 appreciates the area of Marketing and acknowledges the COMESA initial draft policy Framework for Food security in cattle keepers Area intending to assist pastoralists to derive sustainable and long-term benefits from the drylands. All policies focus on "access to market" as the essential element of increase in livestock production and productivity to household livelihoods. However, it has also been found that a group that responds to market changes actively and positively is richer, and those who don't benefit much are the poorest cattle herders (Aklilu and Castley, 2010).

The expansion and development of the livestock market industry in Latin America have brought great economic growth to the region especially to the small-scale farmers (Rodríguez, Anríquez, & Riveros, 2016). Nomadism is a form of livelihood and the potential way of land conservation and mitigation of harsh environmental impacts is poorly planned and misunderstood at the national planning and economic level (Elçi, 2006). In the country, historically pastoralism has been a major source of livelihood especially in the Jonglei State community where five (5) tribes out of six (6) tribes are pure pastoralists of agro-pastoralists. The policy frameworks of the then government of Sudan toward South Sudan were acted upon the fact that the people of South Sudan are mostly Africans and black.

But the geographical location combines with economics renders them inextricably bound for future development. Therefore, to ensure that there shall be educational and economic developments (Juba Conference, 1945). With more than 55 years in armed struggle against Khartoum's successive regimes, South Sudan managed to gain its independence in 2011. Despite the fact that the new nation has a history of international goodwill, substantial foreign aid, and massive oil and mineral resources. Nonetheless, with 51% of the people living in poverty, the country faces enormous development hurdles. Only a few years after gaining independence, the world's newest nation found itself in yet another crisis, this time involving large-scale conflict, a severe macroeconomic crisis, poverty, unemployment, and displacement, with headcount increasing from 51% to 82 percent between 2009 and 2016, implying that the vast majority of the population lives below the international poverty line of 1.90 percent (PPP, 2011).

There is limited literature on how the federal system of government in South Sudan directly influences livestock production in Jonglei state, specifically in Akobo County. This could include policies, directives, and initiatives implemented by the government, as well as the broader political and economic context that might affect livestock production (Bonfiglioli & Watson, 1992; ILRI, 1995). The ways government policies interact with various aspects of livestock production, such as breeding, feed, and market regulations, require further exploration. Moreover, there is scarce research on how these policies have been implemented and their subsequent impact on pastoralists in Akobo County (FAO, 2013; Dorward et al., 2004a, 2004b).

Methods

The study was underpinned in Federalism Theory. Musgrave's (1959) federalism theory assumes that the federal system of government is efficient and effective at addressing the problems that face the government of today. Examples include allocation of income, efficient and effective distribution of resources, and economic stability. It is hard to define the status of federalism in South Sudan. The type of federalism from the following five types of federalism Dual federalism, comparative federalism, Marble Cake federalism, Competitive federalism, permission federalism, and the "new" federalism. The history of federalism reveals the fact that successful federations are made voluntarily. The political theory of federalism Bednar, Eskridge & Ferejohn (2001) federalism, is the division of sovereign authority and power among the levels of government that can be perceived as a means of stabilizing or making credible, decentralized government structure. In some cases, conceptions of government hold sovereignty to be important and necessarily unitary, a divided sovereign is indeed several separate States (Most cases political-economic theories of decentralization manifest how promising it is over-centralized regimes is conceivable and beneficial, they ignore a central practical difficulty and maintaining regimes of this sort.

The location of the study was in Akobo County, Jonglei State in South Sudan. Akobo is a fascinating place because of its history and diversity of population. They farm food, do commerce, and keep livestock. The diversity of lifestyles among the residents of Akobo County sets it apart. The conflicts and disputes in Akobo alter people's livelihoods and examining the county in detail teach us about the local laws' applicability. That enables us to see how this impacts South Sudanese life as a whole.

According to Sekaran (2003), a sample size of between 30 –500 respondents are ideal for such a study and according to Babbies & Mouton (2001), sampling is the best method for selecting observations. In this case, the reason for mentioning the total sample size of 384 participants or respondents is due to the method of data collection in form of questionnaires, observation, and interviews. The study respondents comprise local government, policymakers, civil society actors, traders, pastoralists, and other communities in Akobo County of Jonglei state, South Sudan.

The questionnaire was administered to a sample of community leaders, members of civil society, and ordinary citizens within Akobo County. It was pre-tested in a smaller, similar setting to ensure clarity, relevance, and effectiveness in data gathering. Amendments were made based on the feedback received during the pre-testing phase. In addition to the questionnaire, key informant interviews were conducted to gather qualitative data. These interviews were semi-structured and involved open-ended questions, which allowed for an exploratory approach. In order to cross-verify results from various data sources and methodologies, data triangulation was used. The study outcomes' validity and reliability were improved as a result. The analysis's findings were combined into a thorough report. To make the findings easier to grasp and analyze, a variety of data presentation formats were applied. Pie charts, bar graphs, and tables were used to represent quantitative data, which made it simpler to compare and contrast responses. Often acting as contextual complements to the quantitative findings, qualitative insights were incorporated into the narrative form.

Results

The Federal System of Government and Livestock Production

The objective sought to establish how the federal system of government influences livestock production among the communities in Akobo County, Jonglei State.

Livestock production policy

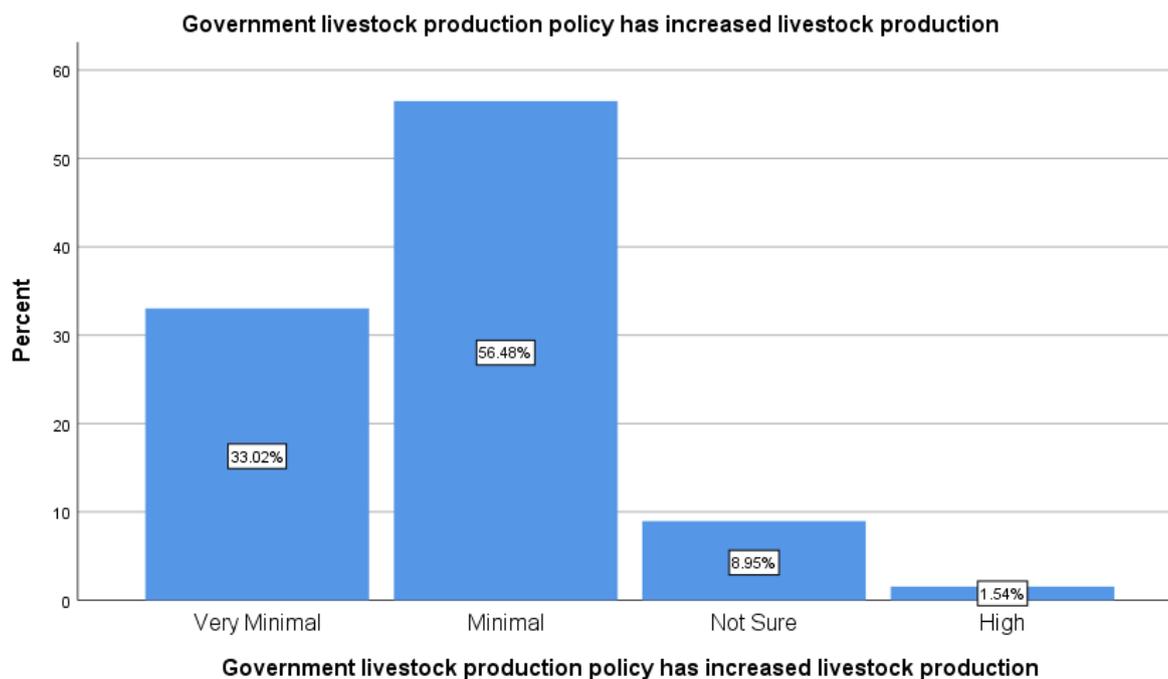


Figure 1: Bar-graph representing responses on livestock production policy
Source, Researcher (2023)

On whether the government livestock production policy has increased livestock production 33.02% selected very minimal, 56.48% selected minimal, 8.95% selected not sure, while 1.54% selected high. Majority, 56.48%, of respondents indicated that they perceive the impact of the government's livestock production policy on increasing livestock production as minimal. This suggests that the majority of respondents believe the policy has had limited success in boosting livestock production. A significant proportion (33.02%) of respondents chose the very minimal category, indicating that they perceive an even lower impact of the government's livestock production policy on increasing livestock production. A small percentage (1.54%) of respondents selected the high category, indicating that they perceive the government's livestock production policy as having a significant positive impact on increasing livestock production. A considerable 8.95% of respondents selected the not sure category, which implies that they are uncertain about the impact of the government's livestock production policy on increasing livestock production.

According to the survey's results, the majority of participants (89.50%) believe that the government's strategy on livestock production hasn't done much to increase the number of animals produced. A startling 89.50% of respondents felt that the government's livestock production program had little influence, which adds another level of complication to the discussion of the efficacy of agricultural policies. The vast majority indicates that the government's strategy for assisting cattle production needs to be urgently reevaluated and changed (Ellis & Biggs, 2001; Scoones, 2009). The data highlights a consistent pattern of dissatisfaction among agricultural communities and supports previous findings regarding the inadequate state support for farming and food aid. This could suggest that there are more problems with state government's agricultural assistance than only the policy's deficiencies (Davis et al., 2010; Robinson et al., 2011).

There could be a number of reasons behind the unhappiness with cattle production policies. The primary reason for the poor acceptance rates of the policies is that they are not sufficiently communicated to the local farmers. This frequently occurs when policies are not appropriate for the local environment or fail to take local populations' knowledge and customs into consideration (Catley, Lind, & Scoones, 2013; Sumberg & Okali, 1997). Similar to this, inadequate or poor financial and infrastructural supports, such subsidies or veterinary care, might hinder the production of livestock (Peacock, 2008; Upton, 2004). The policies' own focal point is another factor. For example, smallholder or subsistence farmers may not find the policies useful or appropriate if they are primarily intended to assist large-scale, industrial livestock production (Herrero et al., 2013; Thornton et al., 2002). This would further widen the gap between government action and community needs by creating a disjunction between policy aim and actual impact (Wiggins & Keats, 2013). It's important to take these policies' demographic inclusivity and regional dispersion into account. The predominantly negative opinion of government activities may be somewhat explained if funding for cattle production is unequally distributed among various regions or social categories (Herrero et al., 2010; Upton, 2004).

Capacity building to livestock owners to increase livestock production

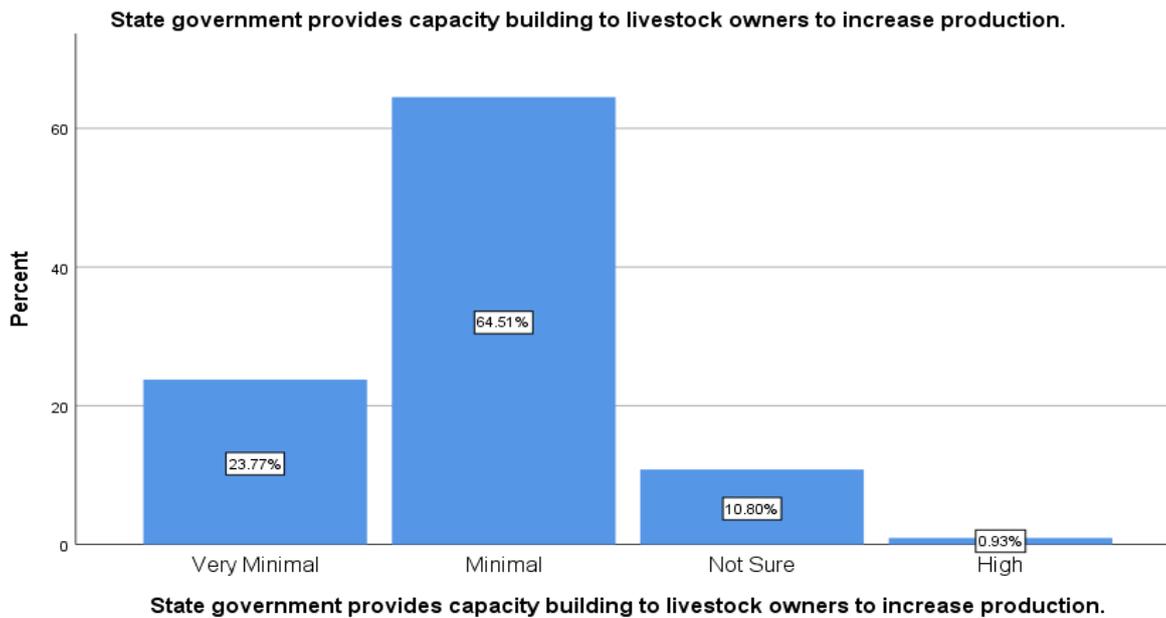


Figure 2: Bar-graph representing state government provision of capacity building to livestock owners
Source, Researcher (2023)

On whether the state government provides capacity building to livestock owners to increase production, 23.77% selected very minimal, 64.51% selected minimal, 10.80% selected not sure while 0.93% selected high. A majority of respondents represented by 64.51% indicated that they perceive the level of capacity building provided by the state government to livestock owners to increase production as minimal. This suggests that the majority of respondents believe the government is providing insufficient support in this area. A significant proportion making up to 23.77% of respondents chose the very minimal category, indicating that they also perceive the level of capacity building provided by the state government to livestock owners to increase production as lacking, albeit to a lesser extent than the "minimal" group. Only 0.93% of respondents selected the high category, indicating that they perceive the state government's capacity building efforts for livestock owners to increase production as adequate or substantial. A considerable 10.80% of respondents selected the not sure category, which implies that they are uncertain about the level of capacity building provided by the state government to livestock owners to increase production. The results of this survey find that a large majority of respondents (88.28%) feel that the level of capacity building provided by the state government to livestock owners to increase production is inadequate.

Some illuminating insights are provided by the examination of the respondents' opinions regarding the state government's assistance in enhancing the capacity of livestock owners. It is noteworthy that a staggering 88.28% of respondents fall into the category of thinking that support is either very minimal or minimal, raising serious concerns about the government's ability to increase livestock production through capacity-building programs. The opinion of the great majority emphasizes a recurrent topic we've seen in previous state assistance discussions: a belief in the insufficiency or ineffectiveness of government policies and actions in the agriculture sector. If these opinions are representative of the opinions of the larger community, they may cause the public to have less faith in state-led agricultural interventions, which could compromise the effectiveness of any upcoming programs (Moseley & Gray, 2008; Swinnen, 2018). There are various reasons why this specific area of capacity building is crucial. It's important to improve the general quality, health, and productivity of cattle in addition to their quantity (Chilonda & Otte, 2006). Good capacity-building initiatives can result in enhanced disease control, superior animal health, and sophisticated breeding methods, all of which have an effect on livestock owners' earnings and standard of living (Perry & Grace, 2009). It's important to pay attention to the 10.80% of respondents who are unsure of the state's involvement in capacity building. There may be a communication gap between the government and the local communities it serves, as seen by this degree of confusion, which could be caused by a lack of communication or awareness of current activities (Kydd, 2002). On the other hand, it's possible that these respondents are unfamiliar with the cattle industry or have never used these services, so they don't know how widespread or effective they are. It is noteworthy that only 0.93% of respondents believe that the state government has provided significant support for capacity-building. Despite their extreme rarity, learning from the experiences and environments of this group may help identify areas of success or best practices that might be expanded upon or duplicated for wider effects (Duncan, 2013).

State government investment in veterinary programme for livestock keepers

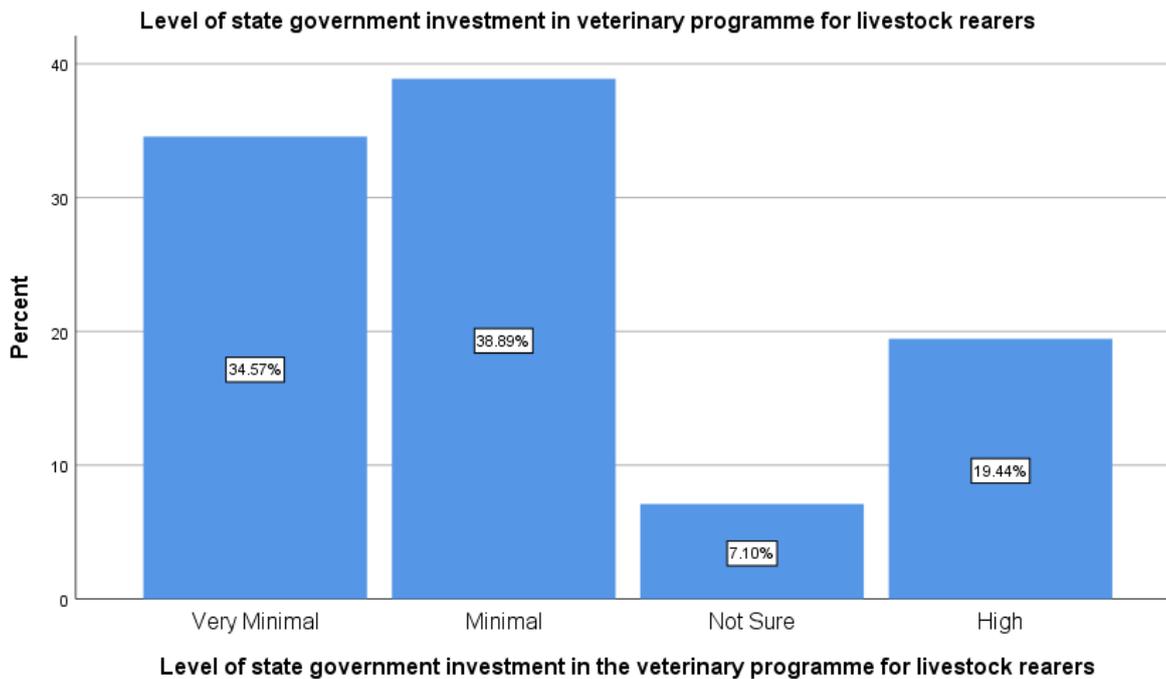


Figure 3: Bar-graph representing state government investment in veterinary programme
Source, Researcher (2023)

On rating the level of state government investment in the veterinary programme for livestock rearing, 34.57% selected very minimal, 38.89% selected minimal, 7.10% selected not sure while 19.44% selected high. A significant proportion represented by 38.89% of respondents indicated that they perceive the level of state government investment in the veterinary program for livestock as minimal. This suggests that a significant portion of respondents believe the government is providing insufficient investment in this area. An almost equal proportion perceived very minimal investment that is the 34.57% of respondents who chose the very minimal category, indicating that they also perceive the level of state government investment in the veterinary program for livestock rearing as lacking, albeit to a lesser extent than the "minimal" group. A notable 19.44% of respondents selected the high category, indicating that they perceive the state government's investment in the veterinary program for livestock rearing as adequate or substantial. A considerable 7.10% of respondents selected the not sure category, which implies that they are uncertain about the level of state government investment in the veterinary program for livestock rearing. The results of this survey reveal that a majority of respondents (73.46%) feel that the level of state government investment in the veterinary program for livestock rearing is inadequate.

The survey results reveal a concerning gap between government efforts and public perception concerning veterinary programs for livestock rearing. With a striking 73.46% of respondents marking the level of state investment as either "minimal" or "very minimal," it is evident that there is a pronounced sentiment of inadequacy in government intervention in this sector. This resonates with broader literature which has pointed to systemic underfunding and neglect of agricultural and veterinary services in various contexts (Davis et al., 2010; Perry & Grace, 2009). The huge proportion of respondents who said that there was insufficient investment indicates that this is not a problem that only affects particular communities or demographic subgroups. Instead, it seems to be a broad view, suggesting that if the state is not investing enough, the effects will probably be felt by many. According to Rushton et al. (2018), these consequences could take many different forms, such as declining animal health or decreased livestock productivity, both of which can have a domino effect on people's ability to make a living and the wellbeing of their communities. It is crucial to remember that poor veterinarian care can have ramifications that go beyond short-term financial ones. According to Jones et al. (2008), poor veterinary care can contribute to the development of zoonotic illnesses, which is problematic for both agriculture and public health. These results raise an important question: why is there such a strong sense of inadequacy? Is it because there aren't enough funds in the budget? Or possibly inadequate execution and financial mismanagement? It is also necessary to ascertain the degree to which these impressions correspond with objective metrics of service availability and quality. Effectively addressing the issue will depend on having a thorough understanding of its underlying causes (Bardhan, 2002). Finally, further in-depth information might be obtained by comparing the results with the 19.44% who thought the investment was "high". Are there particular regions or localities with superior services, and if so, what causes this variation? These might function as prototypes for enhancing veterinary care in presently underserved locations (Binswanger-Mkhize et al., 2009).

Cattle rustling and raiding since the formation of state government

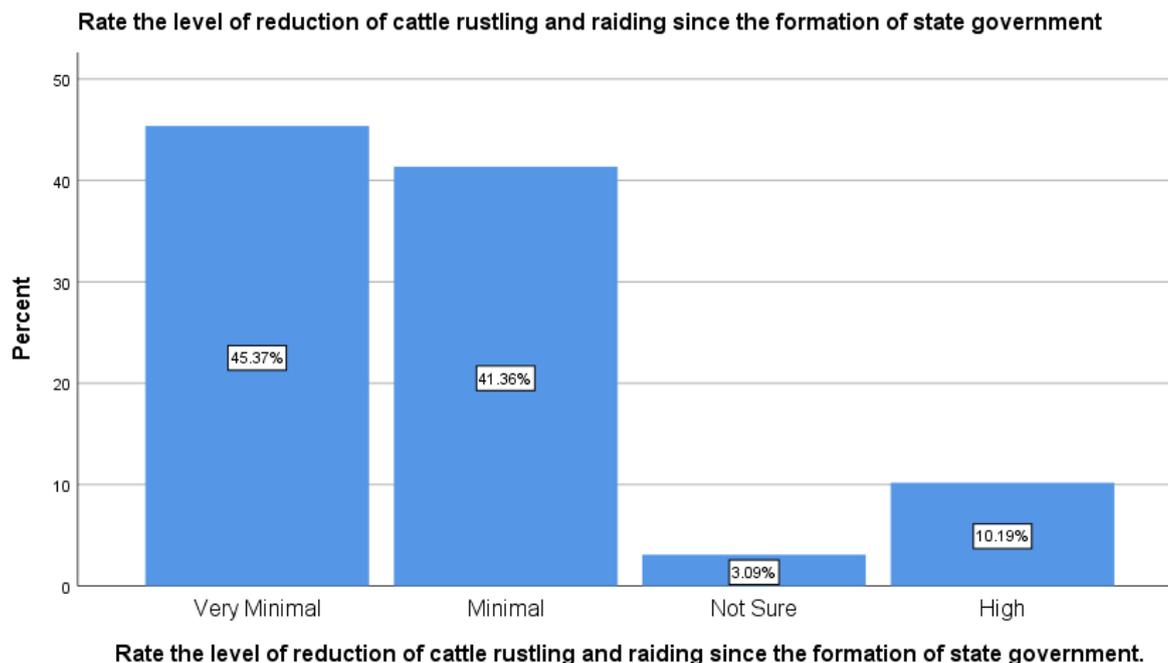


Figure 4: Bar-graph representing the level of reduction of cattle rustling and raiding since the formation of state government. Source, Researcher (2023)

On rating the level of reduction of cattle rustling and raiding since the formation of state government, 45.37% selected very minimal, 41.36% selected minimal, 3.09% selected not sure while 10.19% selected high. A significant proportion represented by 45.37% of respondents indicated that they perceive the level of reduction in cattle rustling and raiding since the formation of the state government as very minimal. This suggests that a significant portion of respondents believe the government has had limited success in addressing this issue. An almost equal proportion representing 41.36% of respondents chose the minimal category, indicating that they also perceive the level of reduction in cattle rustling and raiding since the formation of the state government as lacking, although to a lesser extent than the "very minimal" group.

10.19% of respondents selected the high category, indicating that they perceive the state government's efforts in reducing cattle rustling and raiding as substantial. A small 3.09% of respondents selected the not sure category, which implies that they are uncertain about the level of reduction in cattle rustling and raiding since the formation of the state government. The results of this survey reveal that a majority of respondents (86.73%) feel that the level of reduction in cattle rustling and raiding since the formation of the state government is inadequate.

According to the survey results, the public's opinion on the state government's efforts to stop cattle rustling and raiding is worrying. A sizable majority of respondents (86.73%) believe that the current measures are insufficient. This is in line with previous research that has repeatedly shown the negative effects that cattle rustling has on nearby communities on an economic, social, and psychological level (Mkutu, 2007; Otte & Chilonda, 2002). This is not a niche problem; rather, it seems to affect the community as a whole, as indicated by the large number of respondents who indicated inadequate. The public's confidence in governmental institutions may be significantly impacted by such high levels of perceived inadequacy, which may also weaken the social contract that unites the state and its people (Levi, 1998). Cattle rustling has long-lasting effects on livelihoods and can prolong cycles of violence and retaliation in addition to the initial loss of livestock (Mkutu, 2007). Furthermore, these illicit actions can incite terrorism and insurgency and are frequently linked to larger concerns of insecurity (Fajnzyblber et al., 2002). Consequently, a crucial policy question is raised by the survey results: why have government initiatives had such a little effect? Is the problem with the way policies are written, the way the law is applied, or even corruption? To answer these queries and provide useful information, more investigation is needed. It's interesting to note that the results also encourage a more community-based strategy where local communities are involved in the creation and execution of laws meant to lessen cattle rustling and raiding. A strategy like this might help close the distance between public opinion and official goals (Cornwall, 2008). Finally, it would be valuable to examine the experiences of the minority that do believe that the interventions made by the state government have been sufficient. Are state efforts more successful because of something unique about their circumstances, or are there other assumptions at play?

State government provision of marketing linkages and information to livestock producers.

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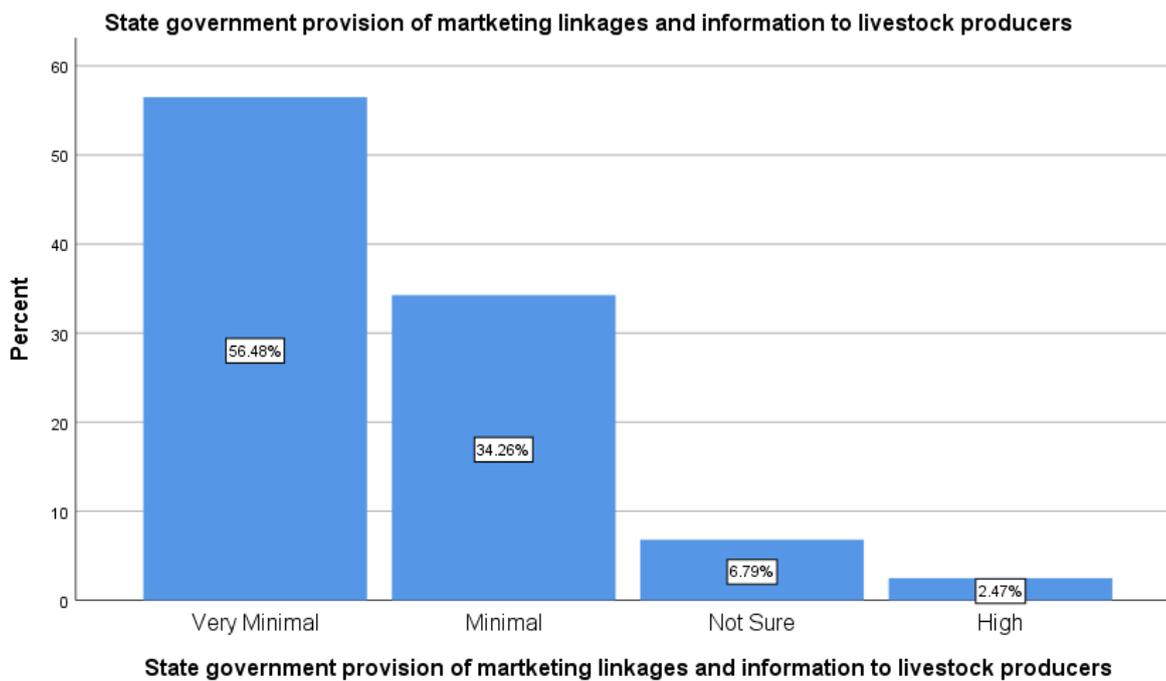


Figure 5: Bar-graph representing state government provision of marketing linkages and information to livestock producers
 Source, Researcher (2023)

When asked to rate the state government provision of marketing linkages and information to livestock producers, 56.48% selected very minimal, 34.26% selected minimal, 6.79% selected not sure, 2.47% selected high. Majority (56.48%) of respondents indicated that they perceive the state government's provision of marketing linkages and information to livestock producers as very minimal. This suggests that the majority of respondents believe the government is providing insufficient support in this area. A significant proportion (34.26%) of respondents selected minimal, indicating that they also perceive the level of state government provision of marketing linkages and information to livestock producers as lacking, even though to a lesser extent than the "very minimal" group. Only 2.47% of respondents selected the high category, indicating that they perceive the state government's provision of marketing linkages and information to livestock producers as adequate. A considerable 6.79% of respondents selected the not sure category, which implies that they are uncertain about the level of state government provision of marketing linkages and information to livestock producers. A large majority of respondents (90.74%) feel that the state government's provision of marketing linkages and information to livestock producers is inadequate.

The overwhelming majority of respondents (90.74%) to the study appear to believe that the state government's attempts to connect livestock producers with markets and provide them with information are insufficient. This result is in line with previous research that highlights the vital role that information and marketing connections have in improving livestock producers' quality of life (Scoones, 1998; Narrod et al., 2009). The absence of sufficient marketing connections and data may have various effects on cattle producers. For instance, inadequate market access can deepen poverty, seriously limit income, and jeopardize efforts to increase production efficiency (Poulton et al., 2006). Furthermore, livestock producers may not receive fair pricing for their goods due to a lack of trustworthy market information, creating an unbalanced market structure that benefits buyers over sellers (Aker, 2010). The overwhelming negative opinion may be a sign of structural problems including gaps in policy, a dearth of public-private partnerships, or even problems with accountability and governance (Ostrom, 2000; Gebremedhin et al., 2009). Given that such high percentages may result in a decline in trust in the government and its institutions (Levi, 1998), the state must act quickly to effectively address these concerns. It is imperative that authorities review the policies implemented for the cattle sector in light of this high percentage of unhappiness. Additionally, to better understand the unique demands and constraints faced by livestock farmers, the state might find it advantageous to hold participatory discussions with them (Cornwall, 2008). Furthermore, in order to close this gap between livestock producers and markets, the state should investigate successful case studies or models in other areas or nations (Reardon et al., 2003). Ultimately, a more thorough examination could shed light on whether the insufficiency is the result of shoddy policy formulation, a lack of funding, or inadequate implementation techniques.

Discussion

The study's conclusions show that there has been no influence of the federal system of government on livestock production output in the towns of Jonglei State's Akobo County. The majority of respondents think that the policies in place have only slightly affected the output of livestock, which is consistent with earlier studies that have emphasized the difficulties in implementing policies in rural regions, and the livestock sector specifically (FAO, 2013). The apparent inefficacy of these measures is consistent with the claim made by Bonfiglioli and Watson (1992) that pastoralists' lifestyles frequently diverge from those of settled populations, which may make it more difficult for government policies intended for sedentary people to be successfully implemented. Furthermore, the limited effect of capacity development programs is consistent with the worries expressed by Norton (2004) and ILRI (1995) regarding the necessity of distinguishing between projects, programs, and policies in the context of livelihood production. This implies that, given the particular difficulties and requirements faced by livestock owners, a more focused strategy for capacity building may be required.

The majority of responders said that the state wasn't investing enough in veterinary programs. This is consistent with the body of research highlighting the value of veterinary care in the effective keeping of cattle (FAO, 2013). It deviates, therefore, from the theoretical assumption that pastoralists frequently rely on customary knowledge and methods, maybe signifying a move in these communities toward contemporary veterinary treatment. The majority of respondents said that since the federal government's founding, the state has not intervened sufficiently to address the serious problem of cattle rustling and raiding. This is consistent with the review by Aklilu et al. (2008), which highlighted the value of cattle as a social and economic resource, indicating that safeguarding them is essential to the welfare of communities. Lastly, the respondents feel that the state does not provide enough marketing connections and information, which is consistent with the literature's emphasis on market accessibility as a critical element of livestock production and productivity improvement (Aklilu and Castley, 2010). Studies from other locations, such as Latin America, have emphasized the significance of this access (FAO, 2014), indicating a possible area for policy learning and adaptation.

Analysis of KII

Impact on Livestock Production:

The findings demonstrate that the federal system has limited influence on livestock production in Akobo County, a sentiment that largely supports existing literature (FAO, 2013; Bonfiglioli and Watson, 1992).

KII Insight:

Interviewees stated that lifestyle of pastoralist has been affected, as they can no longer allow their livestock to roam freely. This aligns with Bonfiglioli and Watson's assertion that government policies often conflict with pastoralists' needs.

Policy Implementation:

The minimal impact of policies on livestock production resonates with concerns about the challenges of implementing such policies in rural areas (ILRI, 1995; Norton, 2004).

KII Insight:

According to key informants, governmental zoning policies have led to pastoralists losing their traditional grazing lands, thereby affecting livestock production.

Veterinary Programs:

The study found that state investment in veterinary care is considered inadequate by most respondents, echoing literature that stresses the importance of such programs (FAO, 2013).

KII Insight:

The key informants also stressed the lack of sufficient veterinary services and expressed a preference for modern veterinary care, signalling a possible shift in community perceptions and expectations.

Cattle Rustling and Raiding:

The ongoing issue of cattle rustling remains a major concern. Most respondents feel the state's interventions have been insufficient in this regard, supporting Aklilu et al. (2008)'s emphasis on the economic and social value of livestock.

KII Insight:

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Informants pointed out that the establishment of the federal system has not improved security around livestock raiding, thus aligning with the general sentiment about the ineffectiveness of state interventions.

Market Access:

The findings suggest that state provision of marketing linkages is inadequate, a view backed by existing literature on the importance of market access (Aklilu and Castley, 2010; FAO, 2014).

KII Insight:

Key informants also mentioned that the imposition of inter-state taxes and levies has burdened traders, indirectly affecting livestock prices and market access.

Conclusion and Recommendation

In summary, the results of the objective's investigation of how the federal government affects livestock production in Jonglei State's Akobo County show that the sector is not significantly benefiting from the current system. Concerns were raised by respondents about a number of topics, such as the efficiency of laws governing the production of livestock, the development of livestock owners' skills, the funding of veterinary programs, security against cattle rustling and raiding, and the availability of marketing connections and information. Most respondents believe that in order to assist livestock farmers and foster growth, the aforementioned areas need to be improved. The difficulties experienced by livestock producers in Akobo County seem to be beyond the scope of the existing laws and programs of the federal system. State and federal governments should work together to develop and implement policies and initiatives that will benefit cattle production. Some of the items that fall under this category are strengthening the capacity of livestock owners, increasing the amount spent on veterinary care, addressing security concerns with cattle rustling and raiding, and improving market access and information for livestock farmers. Tailored solutions incorporating active community and livestock owner engagement would also be required in order to effectively solve the sector's difficulties and promote sustainable growth in livestock production in Akobo County, Jonglei State.

The food assistance program run by the state government is well-liked by many. Compared to other government areas, it appears that they value this support more. Nonetheless, the general agreement suggests that in order to foster a more successful subsistence agricultural sector in Akobo County, Jonglei State, considerable increases in community support and government measures are required. A comprehensive evaluation of the state's current training, capacity-building, and support programs is desperately needed because of the impression that public aid is insufficient. It is recommended that authorities consider implementing more cooperative approaches that involve farmers in the development and implementation of relevant projects. In summary, the poll paints a negative picture of the state government's efforts to strengthen the capacities of subsistence farmers in Akobo County, Jonglei State, South Sudan. These findings necessitate a brief examination of the strategies being employed to actualize federalism through capacity building and training. Better policies and programs for providing resources, food aid, and training to subsistence farmers should be developed by the state government in order to foster a more prosperous subsistence farming industry in Akobo County. To promote sustainable farming, it must work with states and local communities.

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