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## **The Effectiveness of Institutions for Resolving Land Use Conflicts between Farmers and Pastoralists in Morogoro Region**

Elihuruma Mabelya<sup>1</sup> and Lawrencina Mushi<sup>2</sup>

### **Abstract**

*Various institutions for resolving conflicts over land use are growing in Africa. This research explores the effectiveness of the Tanzania's locally established institutions for resolving land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists using Kilosa and Mvomero districts of Morogoro region as the cases. The study adopted a descriptive, case research design from a sample of 120 study participants. The study revealed that the local institutions for resolving land use conflicts are less effective to reduce the recurring upheavals between farmers and pastoralists. Several reasons ranging from the conceptual aspects of land use conflict, methodological use in dealing with the land use conflicts, as well as institutional set ups accounts for this. Because of this, the study concludes that the uses of local institutions for resolving land disputes have not contributed significantly on mitigating the problem. Among the failure of those institutions include ignoring traditional, religious and famous people where local conflict occurs who understand nature and dynamics of those conflicts. Institutional practices were also constrained by lack financial and human resources, too much use of coercive force; as well as the failure to outweigh the legitimacy versus legality in bridging gaps over land use conflicts. The study recommends several issues*

**Keywords:** Land use conflict, institutions, farmers, pastoralists,  
Conflicts between farmers and pastoralists

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## **Introduction**

There are growing perceptions from the public that the institutions for managing land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in Tanzania are not effective to deliver their expected outcomes. The glaring example of the failure of those institutions is seemingly linked with the recurring conflict over land use between pastoralist and farmers in Kilosa and Mvomero Districts of Morogoro region which have dominated media coverage in Tanzania for not less than fifteen years (Interview with an ITV officer, Dar es Salaam in Dec, 2016).

The justification of the study is that although, land has contributed significantly in raising the wellbeing of individuals, communities and Tanzania as a nation at large through provision of a productive capital such as minerals, areas for grazing, spaces for agricultural activities, spaces for tourism, and many others, the growing conflicts related to land use have dominated much attention of the media, government technocrats, policy makers, and researchers. Reportedly, several negative impacts such as death succeeding the violence, collapse of land resources, as well as a evictions of individuals have been noticed.

Several interventions at both policy and practice level have been done to address this problem. Among policy interventions include the Grazing Land and Animal Feed Act No. 13 of 2010; The National Land Use Plan Act of 2007; the National Livestock Policy of 2006; The Land Dispute Act No.2 of 2002; the Village Land Act No.5 of 1999; the Agriculture and Livestock Policy of 1997; as well as the National land Policy of 1995 Further, the uses of coercive forces such as police forces to curb the emerged conflicts between farmers and pastoralists have become a norm. Despite the relative positive effects realized from those interventions, the problem is still there and perhaps not less than before. Consequently the study sought to fill the information gap. The study explored the effectiveness of institutions for resolving land use conflicts between pastoralist and farmers in Kilosa and Mvomero Districts of Morogoro region, which are glaring examples of local councils which have high incidence of land use conflicts.

## **An Overview of Land Use Conflicts**

Historically, since 1960s, land use conflicts have received much attention due to its negative impacts such as death succeeding the violence related to land use practices, collapse of land resources, as well as a compromise behind the growth of individuals well being and local populace at large. In the Middle East (Smith, 1969) posits upheavals between the fellahin (peasants) and nomadic Bedouin in the Arab states. Similarly, Butler and Gates asserted that

in the global north clashes over grazing land between cattlemen and homesteaders have occurred for instance in the Johnson Country Range War of 1892 in the great plains of Wyoming in USA.

In post-independence Africa, violent conflicts between the farmers and pastoralists have been a recurring decimal. The glaring examples in the survey of Moritz (2009) are a contested terrain of land use conflict in the region which etymologically dates back four centuries ago (1600AD) in which the black agricultural villages were raided by the “white warriors” from the northern Sahel. Likewise, in Bukina Faso, IRIN (2012) reports that the conflicts between farmers and herders have become a defined norm of the society. Apart from Bukina Faso, conflicts over land use resources have been reported in other countries such as Nigeria (IRIN, 2009; APA News, 2012), Mali (Aljazeera (2012), Ethiopia (Atkilt, 2003; Fujimoto, 2009), and Kenya (Aljazeera, 2012). Within Tanzania, available literature by Msuya (2013) shows the increased trend of land use conflicts at several localities.

Tanzanian has a land of about 88.6 million hectares. Of that land, 44 million hectares have been used for livestock keeping and 44 million hectares declared to be utilised for crop production. Notably, the estimated hectares for permanent pasturing are 35.5 million. Having 44 million hectares for livestock keeping against 35.5 million of permanent pastures, it signals that there is overgrazing of pastureland of not less than 8.5 million hectares outside the permanent pasture area. Because of that situation, the possibility of conflicts with the other users of land resources in Tanzania. With that observation, management of conflicts over land use need to create a match with the number of livestock in the conflicting areas.

Among the atrocities between the competing groups over land use resources in Tanzania include that of: Rudewa-Mbuyuni Village at Kilosa District in 2000 which resulted into the killings of 38 farmers; Mabwegere and Ngaiti villages at Kilosa District between 2000-2009 with few human casualties; Mvomero and Mikumi between 2000 and 2009 with few human casualties; Loliondo at Ngorongoro District from 2000 to 2009 involving Sonjo farmers and Maasai pastoralists which yielded outcomes such as injuries, houses burnt, livestock lost, as well as several human casualties, and Ihefu, in Usangu at Mbarali District between 2007 and 2009 that resulted into the removal of about 1000 pastoral families.

Other emerged land use conflict include that of: Kikenge Hamlet, at Kilosa District in 2008 which led into the death of 8 people, destruction of crops, houses burnt at Mabwegere and thousands of livestock stolen; Kilindi, formerly at Kiteto District between 2008 and 2009 which led into several human casualties, and destruction of houses; Mpanda Nkasi-Sumbawanga in 2009 with several casualties; Ikwiriri at Rufiji District in 2012 in which one farmer was killed, and violent riots occurred; as well as the land use conflict at Dumila in Mvomero district in 2013 which resulted into death, injury, houses and property destruction.

Further, Shao (2008) explains about the 2001 conflict between pastoralists (Masai) and peasants (Wakwere) in Bagamoyo district over land and water issues that left a number of people especially the peasants dead, and the two outstanding land conflicts that occurred in Arusha region. Of those conflicts, one had occurred in Arumeru district, and another one in Arusha district. According to Mwananchi (12/1/2002), a pastoralist was shot dead by a security guard because of grazing cattle in Gomba Estate that belonged to a Canadian settler, and in Arusha district, two Asian settlers (husband and wife) were killed by villagers because their security guard shot dead a village boy who was found grazing cattle in their Mara Estate (Majira, 10/1/2002). Evidently, the period between 2014 and 2016 pronounced several farmers – herder clashes in both Kilosa and Mvomero districts. As such, both, districts located in Morogoro region do quite often lead in such conflicts, and have dominated news of the media.

Despite all regulatory efforts at policy level, in some areas there have been significant reduction of conflicts, while in others, the situation have become worse. The critical survey within the policy lens shows that the policies which came in place during the Tanzania's post-independence were the inherited ones from colonial governments. Those replicated policies had implications on the loss of the land resources that both hunter gathers and nomadic-pastoralist have relied upon over generations. As a critique, it can be seen that most of the policies are still based on the implicit notion that pastoralism is not the most efficient use of land. Rather, other forms of land use have always been given priority over pastoralism (refer for example, the cases of Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Mkomazi, Ihefu, Basotu, and Yaeda Chini). Even in the predominantly pastoral Districts like Kiteto, a disproportionate amount of the budget is allocated to crop production rather than to livestock development. While various studies (Massoi, 2015; Mwamfupe, 2015; Msuya, 2013; Shao, 2008; Mwami, 2001; Shivji, 2000; Mwaikusa, 1999) have been conducted in the past, most of them focused on exploring

factors contributing to land use conflicts. This study however, explores the effectiveness of institutions that manage these conflicts in the local settings.

Against that background, this study had the ambitious task of examining the extent to which the systems for managing land use conflicts in selected districts are effective enough to address upheavals between pastoralists and farmers. Specifically, the study was guided by three specific objectives namely to: To examine the knowledge farmers and nomadic-pastoralists on the institutions for resolving conflict related to land use from the nature of land use conflict, to assess farmers and pastoralists perceptions on the effectiveness of institutions for resolving conflict related to land use between pastoralist and farmers, as well as to examine the level of involvement of farmers and pastoralists in the institutions of resolving conflict related to land use in the area,

### **2.2.5 The Theoretical Framework towards Managing Land Use Conflict**

In an attempt to theorise the research problem of land use conflict, the system theory is utilised to guide the institutions for managing land use conflicts between pastoralists and farmers. In this study, the theoretical framework has been informed mainly by analyzing the emergence of the conflict between pastoralists and farmers to as the result of the interplay between pastoral and farmers systems. According to Vancouver (1996), the historical path of the system theory is a result of the contribution of various scholars such as Ludwig, Whitehead, Rapoport, Rizzo, Gray and Arieti. Their main argument in line with the system theory is that it describes systems, and its components as abstract organizations independent of time, type, substance and space (Laszlo and Krippner, 1997).

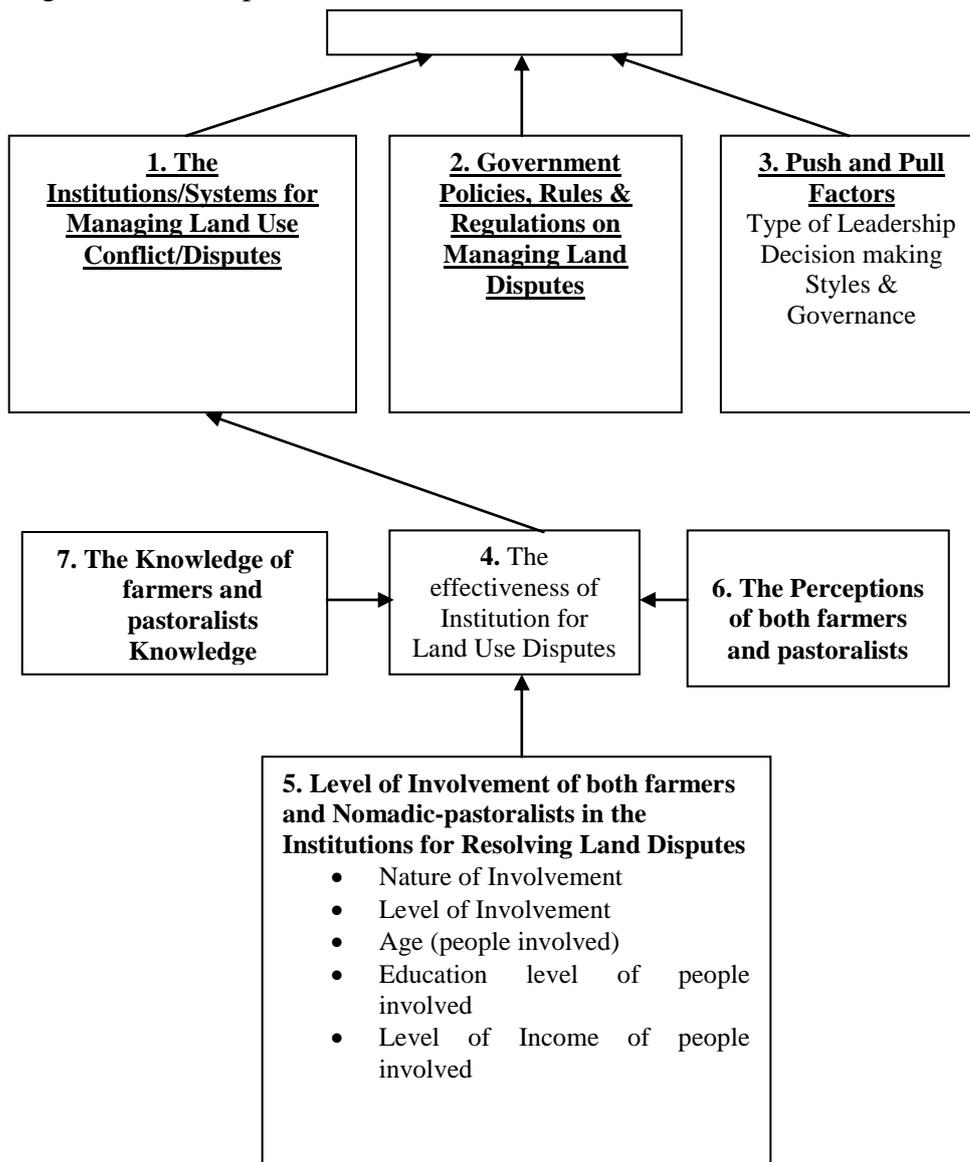
There are three key concepts of the theory: wholeness, that is looking at the entire system (comprised of both, farmers and pastoral systems); organisation, that is, how the different parts of a system comprised of farmers and pastoral systems work together; and patterning, looking at what patterns are connected (Wilmont and Hocker, 2001), and the implications of such connection. What is the link and applicability of systems theory in this study? This theory helps to analyse the existing relationships between farmers and pastoral systems, and understand abilities to manage any likely conflict in the local settings. Literally, both, the formal and informal institutions of production in the local settings is composed of groups contesting for land use, religious leaders, famous people, traditional leaders, NGOs, as well as LGAs officials. As such, all of them compose a system necessary of understanding the nature of recurring land use conflicts and ways how to curb them. It thus become crucial to

explore the extent to which the systems for managing land use conflict between pastoralists and farmers accommodate the knowledge, perceptions and attributes of the local populace especially pastoralist and farmers in selected districts. This is because ignoring either of the components in the system leads to the systemic breakdown. Non-participation or involvement of stakeholders in systemic affairs either purposively or otherwise could also be taken as dysfunction.

**2.3 Conceptual framework of the Study**

The study adopted and modified the conceptual framework as developed by Harvie (2011) to suit the objectives of the study as demonstrated by Figure 1.1. This diagram conceptualizes how the level of knowledge, perceptions as well as level of involvement of both farmers and pastoralists’ on the institutions of resolving land use conflicts contributes to the effectiveness of the system for managing land use conflict at the district level in Tanzania.

Resolving Land Use Disputes between farmers & Pastoralist



The diagram does not focus on the causal-effect relationship between independent and dependent variable, rather shows the contribution of the study objective to the effectiveness of the system that manage conflicts. The arrows indicate feedback to and from different parts. Experience also shows that when pastoral and farmers' system meets and overlaps in the local settings, a crisis emerges. What are the effective ways of managing such conflicts? The synergetic management of conflict over use of land resources between pastoralists and farmers requires adequate information on (the level of knowledge, perceptions as well as level of involvement of both farmers and pastoralists' on the systems of managing land use conflicts) to draw up a reliable and realistic plan that can be further translated into action plan for implementation. Since several issues and interests change over time, it is crucial to understand how (the level of knowledge, perceptions as well as level of involvement of both farmers and pastoralists') contribute to the effectiveness of the system of managing land use conflicts.

### **Research Methods**

A descriptive case study research design which revolves around the qualitative sequential quantitative mixed research approach was undertaken in Kilosa and Mvomero districts, Morogoro region to investigate effectiveness of the Tanzania's locally established institutions for resolving land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. A combination of both secondary and primary sources of data was collected for this study. The instruments used for collecting primary data were questionnaires, face-to-face interviews schedules, observation checklist and Focus Group Discussions guide. Secondary data was obtained from different sources including the Mzumbe University, Dar es Salaam Campus College library, the Prime Minister's Office-Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG), the Ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlements as well as the Ministry of Justice and Constitution Affairs.

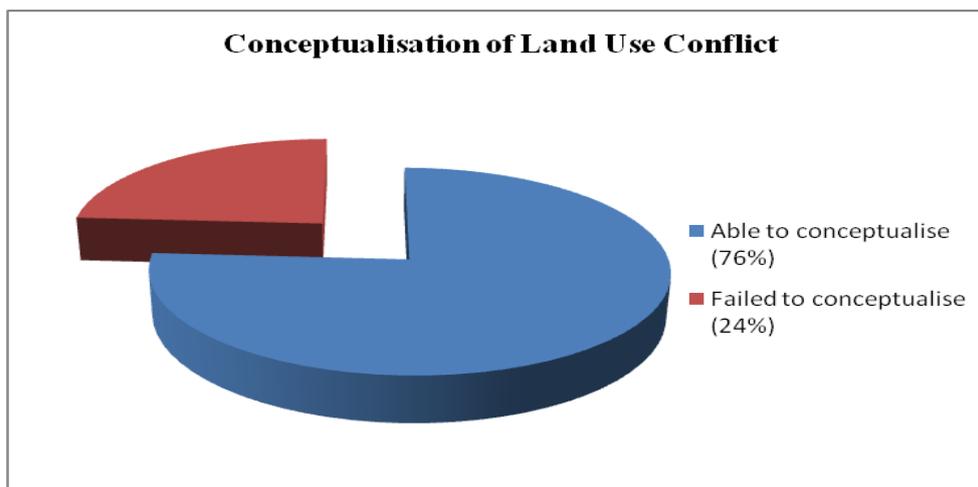
Overall a total of 120 study participants were included in the study. The sample was comprised of 50 participants from pastoralist system, 50 participants from farming systems as well as 20 key informants linked with recurring conflict including 4 religious leaders, 4 famous people, 2 traditional leaders, 2 officials of NGOs, 4 LGAs officials as well as 4 leaders from the competing groups that contest for utilization of land resources. Both probability and non probability techniques were used for this study. The study employed purposively sampling towards selecting 20 key informants for the study. The following is the summary of the study key findings.

## Presentations and Discussion of the Study's Findings

### The Knowledge on Land Use Conflict and Institutions for Resolving Disputes

Both, farmers and nomadic-pastoralists were asked to explain their understanding about land use conflict. Figure 4.1 provides responses from the study participants.

**Figure 4.1: Conceptualisation of Land Use Conflict**



**Source:** Field Survey Data, 2017

As can be seen from Figure 4.1, majority of study participants 76 (76 %) from farmers and nomadic-pastoralist reported understanding the concept of land use in their local settings. The finding shows how knowledgeable both, farmers and nomadic-pastoralists are in matters related to conflicts over land use in their area. However, breaking a survey of knowledge across each category, a gap in conceptualizing conflict over land use was realized. This gap emerged from the conceptualization of land use, which in turn implicates the emergence of land use conflict from both categories.

While to the nomadic-pastoralists land is conceived as a common property to anyone who wishes to graze and conduct various activities, to farmers land is a property communally owned by several households for cultivation practices. This conception is also supported by Msuya's study (2013) conducted in Same district that shows while to the pastoralists property is cattle, and land is common property open to herds, to crop farmers land is property, which is divided between households. With that level of conceptualization between the competing groups; it predicts how difficult it is the process of handling issues related to the management of land use conflict. With the relative paradoxical level of conceptualizing land, it is not

surprisingly that the relationship between farmers and nomadic-pastoralist is quite often conflicting.

### **Knowledge on the nature of land use conflicts**

The study participants were asked to explain their understanding about the nature of land use conflict in the area. Among several features analysed include: The magnitude of the land use conflict; the root causes of conflicts related to land use; Factors that fuel the conflicts related to land use, the actors involved and benefits generated from the conflicts related to land use; as well as the early warning signs of the occurrences of conflicts. Their responses are summarised in Table 4.2

**Table 4.2: Knowledge on the nature of land use conflicts**

<b>(i) The root causes of Conflicts</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Scarcity of grazing land	38	38
Attitudes of nomadic-pastoralists	34	34
Loss of cultivating land due to several factors	16	16
Decrease in water resource	12	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>(ii) The magnitude and severity of conflict</b>		
Low	36	36
Moderate	39	39
High	25	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>(iii) The triggers of the conflict</b>		
Gaps in enforcement of law	34	34
Problems allied to land tenure	39	39
Corruption given to VEOs/WEOs	27	27
<b>Total</b>		
<b>(iv) The actors involved in conflict</b>		
Farmers	39	39
Nomadic-Pastoralists	34	34
Government officials	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Survey data, 2017.

The results in Table 4.2 show that the scarcity of the grazing land (38%) was the leading cause of conflict related to land use among farmers and nomadic pastoralists. Mixed results exist regarding the scarcity of the grazing land.

First, since pastoral systems are to a large extent a product of climatic and environmental factors, any intolerable stress such as climatic change within the pastoral system leads into scarcity of the grazing land, and thus fuels an upsurge of conflict when they migrate to other areas. Second, the cultural prestige of nomadic-pastoralists of keeping a large number of animals without aligning it with the carrying capacity of the land resources induces the scarcity of the grazing land. Other mentioned root causes include: attitudes of nomadic-pastoralists (34%); decrease in water resource (12%); as well as loss of cultivating land (16%). Within the lens of loss of cultivating land, one among the participants of the FGD discussion from farming systems had this to say:

Ah! These conflicts are caused by the government officials themselves. In few years back, especially in 1990s, some of the government official vested with powers acquired huge land in our local areas through lobbying our village/ward leaders. As a result, either big farms or diary units were established and protected with firm fences. Because of that majority of nomadic-pastoralists who use to graze their animals in those fertile big farms decided to locate their animals along the fertile small pieces of farms run by the poorly owned locals. In my view, that was the main cause of conflict. (A man aged about 32 years).

Participants were also asked to indicate the magnitude and severity of the conflict related to land use. All 100 participants (100) responded. Of the 100 respondents twenty five (25%) felt that the size of the conflict was high; thirty six (36%) felt that the size of the conflict was low; and a relative high observation compared to others thirty nine (39%) felt that the size of the conflict was moderate.

This finding indicates that there is a decrease in the frequency of a conflict. One of the public officials in the Mvomero District supported that observation and had this to say during an interview:

Yeah! ...It is true that since last year (referring 2016) the trend of the land use conflict between pastoralists and farmers have decreased in our area. This is possibly due to strong adherence of laws and order of the current administrative regime under the President Magufuli. In the past, there were arguments that pastoralists at several occasions corrupted the public officials at either the village/ward/district levels in order to be allowed access the village land, which in turn fuelled conflicts. Such trend is no longer observed (An official aged about 44 years)

This is a surprising finding considering the regularly reported conflicts by the media between 1990s and 2010s that have been happening in both districts. This suggests that apart from having in place good policies, laws as well as institutions to enforce the law and order, the question of ethical leadership and good governance is crucial for not only managing conflicts in societies but also instilling the development agenda. The findings of this study are consistent with those endorsed by Paradza and Mokwena for Idasa and Atkinson in GGLN (2010:6) study of ethical leadership and political culture in South Africa's local governments that establishes that "local government's woes in fact arise from a complex array of factors that include 'weak management, hesitant or absent leadership, poor communication, political favouritism and ineptitude' state led analysis of the same symptoms typically focuses on only one of these factors and avoids a direct criticism of leadership".

In terms of the triggers of the conflicts, Table 4.2 reveals that of the 100 respondents thirty nine (39%) felt that the problem allied to land tenure was the main trigger or factor that exacerbates the conflicts. The findings of this study collaborate with the conclusion drawn in Mwamfupe's study in 2015. According to Mwamfupe's study (2015), the root cause of the conflicts is the lack of security of land tenure to smallholder farmers and herders who hold and use unsurveyed land that is liable for alienation through acquisition and encroachment. His analysis and conclusion relied with a research conducted in four districts of Kilombero, Kiteto, Rufiji and Kilosa between 2012 and 2014.

Other mentioned triggers include those related with the then increased trend of corruption reported by twenty seven (27%) given to VEOs and WEOs to allow nomadic-pastoralists access the village land for grazing their animals. One among the farmers in the Kilosa District supported that observation and said this during the FGDs session:

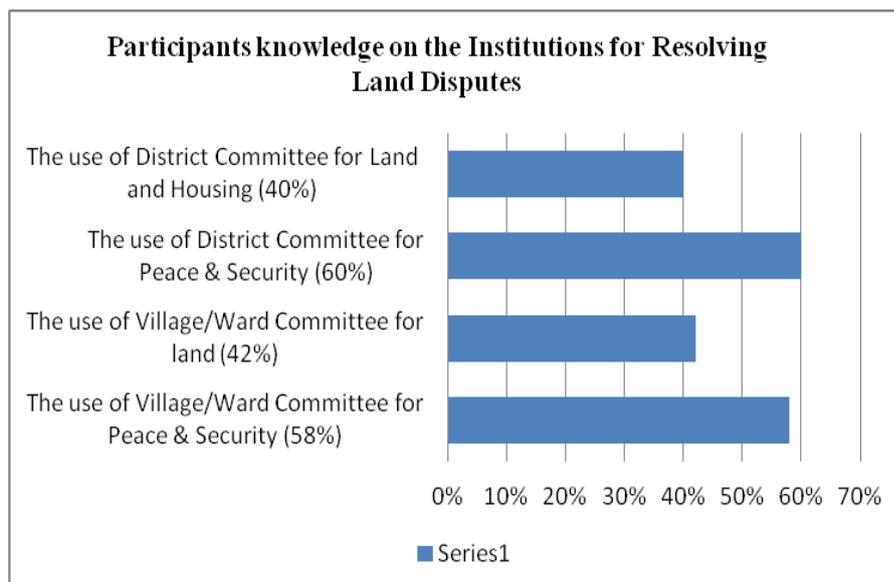
Oh! ...It is factual that since 1990s, unethical Village Executive Officers in our local areas used to receive bribe especially from nomadic-pastoralists to let them access the village land without informing other members forming village land committee (referring to Baraza la Ardhi la Kijiji in Swahili). This growing trend has been fuelling the increased land use conflict between pastoralists and farmers in our area. That trend, however, has decreased following the decision made by District commissioners to withdrawal them from misuse of their public offices. (An farmer aged about 56 years)

More importantly, thirty four participants (34%) reported that the existing gaps in enforcement of laws at the local level is one among the triggers of the conflicts related to the land use between farmers and pastoralists. It was observed that the institutions for resolving land use conflict are coordinated by three different ministries. While the committees for resolving land disputes at the village and ward levels are found under the Prime Minister's Office-Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG), the committees for land and housing at the district level are under the Ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlements. Otherwise, the registry of High Court of Tanzania and the Tanzania's court of appeal are both under the Ministry of Justice and Constitution Affairs. Lack of policy and institutional coordination from those three ministries vested with various roles on handling land disputes make it difficult to handle the conflicts between farmers and nomadic-pastoralists.

### **Knowledge on the Institutions for resolving disputes over the land use**

Further, the study realizes the considerable variety in the framework for managing such conflict in the local settings. When participants were asked whether they were conversant on the institutions for resolving conflict related to the land use in their districts, different narrations were given. Figure 4.2 presents a summary of these responses from the survey made to both farmers and nomadic-pastoralists.

**Figure 4.2: Knowledge on the Institutions of Resolving Land Disputes**



**Source:** Survey data, 2017.

As can be seen from Figure 4.2, the study participants from both farmers and nomadic-pastoralist reported to have either heard or seen land use conflicts in their village/wards being resolved through the use of either Village/Ward Committee for Peace and Security (58%) or the use of Village/Ward Committee for land (42%). Likewise, at the district level, sixty participants (60%) felt that the District Committee for Peace and Security was utilised to resolve land use disputes, and this was also followed close to the use of District Committee for Land and Housing (40%). This observation shows that the Committee for Peace and Security at all levels from village, ward as well as the district level play crucial roles in dispute resolutions compared to the committees for land at the village and ward levels, as well as that of land and housing at the district level. The reasons for such observations were unclear. It was also observed that while the Committee for Peace and Security at all levels from village, ward to the district are headed by the political figures such as the village chairman and District Commissioner respectively, the committees of land from village to ward, as well as that of land and housing at the district level are headed by official administrators such as the Village Executive Officers (VEOs), the Ward Executive Officers (WEOs), as well as District Executive Director (DED). This implies that politically established institutions are much more effective than the administratively established institutions.

### Perceptions on the Effectiveness of Institutions for Resolving Land Disputes

The study assessed the perceptions of farmers and pastoralists on the effectiveness of institutions for resolving land disputes among farmers and nomadic-pastoralists at the district level in Tanzania. The question was answered by both respondents (farmers and nomadic-pastoralists).

**Table 4.3: Perceptions on the Effectiveness of Institutions for Resolving Land Disputes**

Are institutions of resolving land disputes effective?	Kilosa District		Mvomero District		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	28	56	24	48	52	52
Agree	19	38	21	42	40	40
Not Sure	3	6	5	10	8	8
<b>Total</b>	50	100	50	100	100	100

**Source:** Survey data, 2017.

According to the results shown in Table 4.3, more than a half, fifty two (52%) of both farmers and nomadic-pastoralists perceived the current institutions of resolving land use conflicts ineffective. Several narrations were given. Through interview one official from pastoralist association presented the following account:

### **Box No 1**

I have noticed too much use of coercive force when addressing those conflicts especially when nomadic-pastoralists are involved. In my view, however, that path has fuelled more conflicts than expected. This orientation tends to lead to more complex problems when complex decisions have to be reached. Lets develop mutual trust and confidence among the competing groups (**Kilosa 3/2/2017**).

That observation, however, was rejected by another official working within the farming systems who had this to say during an interview:

### **Box No 2**

Frankly, the District committee for peace and security quite often tries every option to restore peace when upheavals between farmers and pastoralists emerge in the area. It is in the situation when all other alternatives fail that the use of coercive force become inevitable. I think, ah! Pastoralists' should stop blaming the authority for their own wrongs! There are times when a human being can be slaughtered like an animal, how do you expect the government to intervene such situation? (**Mvomero District 4/2/2017**).

On contrary, another study participant from the group of key informants lamented on the ineffectiveness of the institutions of resolving conflicts by arguing that:

### **Box No 3**

The local institutions responsible for resolving land use conflicts that occurs between farmers and nomadic-pastoralists are quite often reactive and not proactive. This is because they work for post-mortem issues. Notably, there are no prior meeting or sensitisation programme to bring the competing groups together to discuss the emerging issues in advance (**Mvomero District 15/3/ 2017**).

Another key informant said:

**Box No 4**

Sometimes the ineffectiveness of those institutions are due to political and social alliance to certain groups. At some point, there were some feelings that some of the local leaders were in favour of the farmers because they had a strong stand with the CCM-the national ruling party, compared to pastoralists who were aligned to support opposition parties. This orientation polarised the local community along party politics. However, through the wisdom of CCM leaders, it was made clearly that the party appreciates the contribution of both farmers and pastoralists, and thus those perceptions should be discarded (**Mvomero 15/3/2017**).

Other observations made on the ineffectiveness of the institutions of resolving land use conflicts include:

**Box No 5**

The perception that both, the use of either Village/Ward Committee for peace and security or the Village/Ward Committee for land tend to ignore traditional, religious and famous leaders who have great influence in the local settings. Because of that there is an increased perceptions that decisions made in those institutions sometimes ignores the values of the local populace and are in favour of the government interests (**Kilosa 3/2/2017**).

**Box No 6**

The perception that there is a lack of resources such as vehicles, security officers and expertise in those institutions responsible for resolving land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in the areas in which the such conflicts have become a norm (**Kilosa 3/2/2017**).

**Box No 7**

The perception that some of the government officials who initiate such conflicts by receiving corruption from the competing groups vouching for land such as some Village Executive Officers (VEOs) are also part of resolution members. It is not only illegal but also does not carry moral values to be a judge in your own case. I think it is now a high time to re-think on the composition of members of such committee that work as local institutions for resolving conflicts in order to enhance its effectiveness (**Mvomero 15/3/2017**).

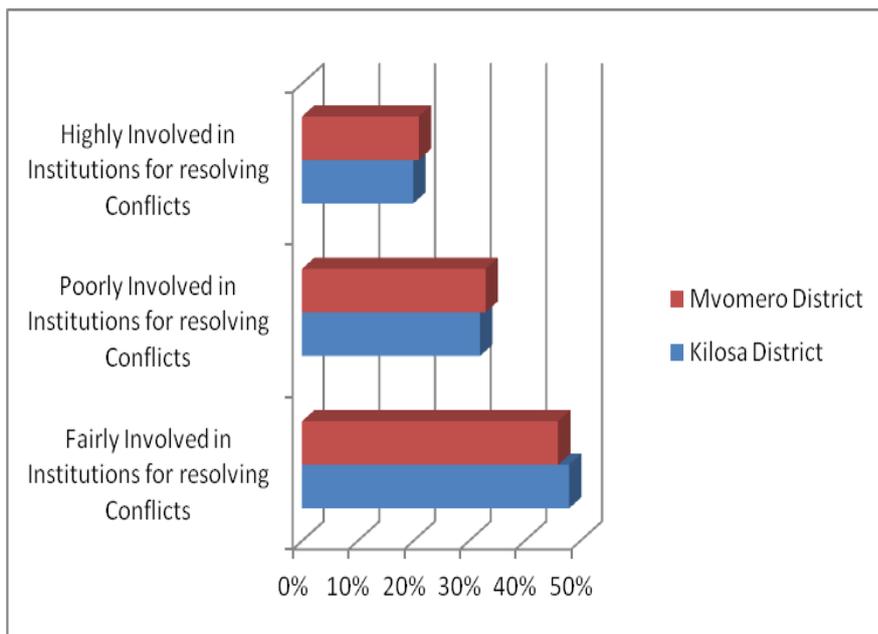
The perception that the current institutions of resolving land use conflicts are ineffective cannot be dismissed simply due to the raise of several issues such as too much use of coercive force; the institutions being quite often reactive and not proactive; lack of neutrality to certain political and social groups; the trend to which institutions ignore traditional, religious and famous leaders who have great influence in the local settings; lack of necessary resources to meet institutional objectives; as well as the presence of unethical leaders in managing land disputes. The implication of those findings is that, those observed gaps or

inadequacies reduces the effectiveness of the institutions responsible for resolving land use disputes in the areas. This situation would continue entrenching the persistent conflict between farmers and nomadic-pastoralists in the areas. The study finding is consistent with an observation by Maphosa, DeLuca and Kearsley (2014) that in building peace from within (referring to community-based peacebuilding) it is crucial to build peaceful community and its path starts by understanding the perceptions and knowledge of that peaceful community. Similarly, the current study established that an effective institution for resolving persistent conflict between farmers and nomadic-pastoralists in the areas requires bridging those observed institutional gaps from the local populace themselves.

**People’s Involvement in the Institutions of Managing Land Use Disputes**

Under objective number three in chapter one, the study intended to establish the level of involvement of both, farmers and pastoralists in the institutions of managing conflict related to land use between pastoralist and farmers in the area. To meet this objective, primary data were collected through the use of the Likert scale of measurement 1=poorly involved, 2=fairly involved, and 3= highly involved. On a scale of 1-3 (1=Poorly Involved, 2= Fairly Involved, 3= Highly Involved study participants were asked to rank their level of involvement in the institutions of managing land use conflicts. The main purpose of this section is to presents local community responses to this question. Figure 4.3 provides respondents responses to this question.

**Figure 4.3: Involvement in the Institutions of Managing Land Use Disputes**



**Source:** Survey data, 2017.

The findings of Figure 4.3 show that less than a half, (Kilosa 48%, and Mvomero 46%) of the study participants reported to be fairly involved in the institutions of managing conflict related to land use between pastoralist and farmers in the area. This was followed by a group that showed poorly involved (Kilosa 32%, and Mvomero 33%) as well as highly involved (Kilosa 20%, and Mvomero 21%). If both farmers and nomadic pastoralists are more involved in decision making and implementation of institutional objectives, they feel ownership over the process, and they are more likely to experience positive impacts of the institutional agenda.

### **Conclusion and Policy Implication**

In the light of the study findings, it can be concluded that the local institutions for resolving land use conflicts between farmers and pastoralists are less effective to reduce upheavals over land use brought by those competing groups. Several reasons ranging from the conceptual aspects of land use conflict, methodological use in dealing with the land use conflicts, as well as institutional set ups accounts for this. Because of this, the uses of local institutions for resolving land disputes have not contributed significantly on mitigating the problem. Among the setbacks of those institutions set ups include ignoring traditional, religious and famous people where local conflict occurs who understand issues, actors, as well as dynamics of those conflicts. Institutional practices were also constrained by lack financial and human resources, too much use of coercive force; being quite often reactive instead of proactive; failure to outweigh the legitimacy versus legality of institutional members in terms of composition and tenure as well as lack of neutrality to certain political and social groups in local settings which in turn fuelled conflicts instead of resolving.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the study findings the following are recommended: Since some of the local officials such as VEOs were accused of engaging in corruptive behavior through selling the village land to some of the nomadic-pastoralists, the government should establish strong measures to curb such situation. Likewise, since the decentralization has become the government's roadmap for delivery of public services, it is now crucial to decentralize at the same time coordinate the established locally owned institution of resolving conflicts composed of representatives from government officials and traditional, religious as well as famous people where local conflict occurs who understand issues, actors, as well as dynamics.

Further, since it was observed that the institutions for resolving land use conflict are coordinated by three different ministries: the Prime Minister's Office-Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG), the Ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlements; as well as the Ministry of Justice and Constitution Affairs, there is a need for a government to establish the policy and institutional coordination from those three ministries vested with various roles on handling land disputes. Since the finding shows that farmers are more knowledgeable than nomadic-pastoralist in the study area, and this predicts how difficult it is in handling issues related conflict over land use resources, it is crucial to establish specific awareness programmes to equip especially nomadic-pastoralists on their rights, responsibilities and a need to respect government law and order. Since the findings of this study infers that land use conflict has a masculine character because male quite often are the mostly in charge of the structures and mechanisms that fuel and resolve conflicts, it is a high time now to feminise peace making process in local settings by empowering women participate in resolution of land disputes.

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