

ASSESSMENT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OF LIVELIHOOD CAPITAL ASSETS OF PASTORALISTS IN THE NORTH EAST ARID ZONE OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Assessing the sustainability of livelihood capitals of pastoralists need an in-depth analysis. Apart from being exposed to unpredictable environmental dictates, pastoralists continued to be victims of state policies and project intervention. In order to arrive at strategies for enhancing pastoralists' livelihood assets, this study assessed the sustainability of livelihood capitals assets of pastoralists in the North East Arid Zone of Nigeria. Cluster along with purposive sampling techniques were used in the selection of villages while snow balling sampling was used to select respondents. Interviews were conducted with 91 pastoralists' household heads. The livelihood capital assets of pastoralists were assessed using the Macqueen (2001) matrix. Data from this study show that natural capital asset, physical asset, relation of trust and access to wider institution and educational assets of pastoralists are unsecured. The only sustainable financial asset is livestock worth which serves as source of income, savings, investments and insurance. Hence any threat to livestock will have serious blow on the livelihoods of pastoralists. The study suggest negotiating access to grazing land, water and forest resources as way to improve the constraints to natural resource access among pastoralists.

Keywords: Livelihood, Pastoralist, Sustainability, Access, Assets