

Interactive comment on “Climate and resource information as tools for dealing with farmer-pastoralist conflicts in the Sahel” by O. Mertz et al.

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Thank you very much for the positive notes on the relevance of the paper, the structure of the text as well as acknowledging the value of the relatively limited survey. The three constructive suggestions for changes can be dealt with relatively easily:

1) Making it more explicit that it is the failure or inexistence of appropriate institutions for managing competition for resources and enhancing cooperation.

a. We agree that this is a crucial element and this can be done by using more of the existing literature on how governments have dealt (or not dealt) with issues such as farmer-herder conflicts.

2) A presentation of the profile of the respondents and an assessment, if possible, of their understanding of the complexities of the dynamics of Sahelian production systems would help in appreciating the relevance of the results.

a. Further presentation of their profiles is no problem, but it would be more daring to assess their understanding of complexities of the Sahelian production systems. However, we do have quotes from the workshop that clearly show strong differences in understandings, e.g. the participants from eastern Niger had a much more pronounced and detailed knowledge of pastoral issues compared to others. We can – with caution – integrate this in the text.

3) A better explanation of how zoning is understood given that government efforts have failed in Burkina Faso and northern Nigeria.

a. We can easily explain the concept of zoning and how it is done differently by governments or by pastoralists themselves. We were of the impression that zoning in northern Burkina Faso had been somewhat successful, but this was information from the late 2000s and might not be relevant anymore. It would be great if the reviewer could direct us to literature on this failure as we are not aware of it.

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Discussion paper

