
Impact of the Establishment of *the Iware* Cattle Market on the economic growth and development of Taraba State Area, 1970-2022

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Abstract

The Taraba State area supports various types of economic activities, and one of the most important and prominent is animal husbandry, cattle rearing, and trade. The cattle trade is one of the most important economic activities in many parts of Taraba State, including Iware. The history of cattle trading in Iware is important if we are to understand economic activities in Ardo-Kola, Jalingo Local Government Areas, and Taraba State in general. The Iware cattle market's importance is evident in the number of people who patronize it from various parts of Taraba, in particular, and Nigeria in general. This is because Iware is strategically located on a major highway that links several states in Nigeria. This has played a significant role in boosting the cattle market. The Iware cattle market has had a significant impact on the economic development of not only Jalingo and Ardo Kola Local Government Areas, but also Taraba State. The traders that carry out their trade in the area, too, are able to benefit from the cattle market in Iware. Since its establishment, it has also promoted inter-group relations. This paper examines the impact of the establishment of the Iware cattle market on the economic development of the Taraba State area. The study used the historical method to arrive at its conclusion, using primary and secondary data. The study ends with workable recommendations as remedies to the challenges confronting not only the Iware cattle market but pastoralism generally.

Keywords: *Iware*, cattle trade, Taraba State, *Ardo-Kola*

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Introduction

Pastoralism is one of the main sources of livelihood for large populations in West and Central Africa. It also makes a significant contribution to the economies of these regions. The livestock industry is a very important component of the agricultural sector of Nigeria's economy, contributing about N1.8 billion in 1980 and N2. billion in 1981 to the Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P.).¹ The foregoing points to the importance of the cattle business, which is one of the largest contributors to the livestock industry in Nigeria. The *Iware* cattle market also contributes to domestic and national development.

With regard to economic development, the Nigerian government sees the commercialization of the pastoral sector as a promising means of social and economic transformation for the pastoral Fulani. In this area, the government has two (2) broad policy objectives. First, it wants to increase livestock stakes, thereby breaking the chronic herd retention among the Fulani. Secondly, it seeks to incorporate the Fulani into the national economy, thus reducing their longstanding social and economic isolation from the rest of the country. This shows the importance the government attaches to cattle production and marketing in Nigeria.

Nigeria, with a human population of nearly 180 million according to the 2006 census, represents the largest market for beef in West Africa. The

country has traditionally imported a large number of cattle on the hoof from Sahelian countries. The meat trade in Nigeria was formerly based on the importation of Sahelian cattle from Francophone countries, particularly the Niger Republic, which has a hard currency, the CFA. Producers in these countries saw the market price for their stock drop dramatically after 1986; although costs rose in Nigeria, they did not compensate for the fall of the naira.

As a result, Nigerian production became more appealing, giving a major impetus to backyard cattle fattening. This practice is particularly popular in the

1 Timothy O. Williams, May 1989, Livestock development in Nigeria: A survey of the policy issues and options, Network Paper No. 21, African Livestock Policy Analysis Network, International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA),

North-central region of Nigeria, with abundant vegetation and access to the large urban markets of the south. As with plough animals, farmers entering this system buy any animal the pastoralists are willing to sell, but with more experience, they began to demand particular breeds of cattle. Except in the extreme east, the breed preferred for fattening is the *Bunaji*, since it is hardy and disease-resistant, even though its weight-gain characteristics may be less attractive than *Rahaji*. *SokotoGudali* is favoured by villagers as a fattening stock, but they are not popular traction animals as they are said to be lacking in stamina.

The Emergence of the *Iware* Cattle Market

Iware cattle market is located about 25 kilometres west of Jalingo metropolitan area, the Taraba State capital, and north-east of Sunkani, the *Ardo-Kola* Local Government headquarters. The market is situated on the right-hand side of the Jalingo-Wukari road, which is Route 90.

Iware in Fulfulde means a certain species of grass that is being used as a fodder for animal feeding. In Hausa, it is called *Kalawalli*, while in English, it is referred to as *gamba* grass. It can be consumed directly by animals and, at the same time, used in preparing silage feed for animals. Due to the availability of pasture, specifically the *gamba* species of grass at *Iware*, which is being preferred most by the animals, the pastoral Fulani cattle owners found *Iware* to be suitable for them. Following the large concentration of Fulani cattle rearers at *Iware*, as time went on, they began to dispose of their animals to purchase some provisions. According to Awogbade, the Fulani sell animals in exchange for salt, cloth, and animal feed.

They also sell and buy luxury goods such as radios, bicycles, motorcycles, and furniture. An urgent demand for cash may compel the Fulani to market an animal. This was how the *Iware* cattle market started.

The *Iware* cattle market first started north of the town of *Iware*, near a village known as *Korkayel*, around 1970. It first started when the Fulani people living in the different villages around them would gather together for an occasional festival known as "Gaddo."

[4](#) This is a feast where the Fulani gather to celebrate and discuss their problems. From there, they realised the need to establish a cattle market. The cattle market started with some 5–10 cattle for sale. With time, realising the importance of starting a cattle market and seeing the availability of the commodity, they took the initiative to start the market.

Interview with Mallam Bello Manta "Sarkin Tike," Head of the Cattle Market, *Iware Ardo-Kola* Local Government, Taraba State, on July 6, 2014.

[3](#) Awogbade, M., "Prospect to Settlement of the Pastoral Fulani: The Case

Study of Rurna-Kukar-Jangaraj, Kaduna State, Nigeria' C. S.ER. Research Report, 1982, No. 9.

4 Interview with Mallam Bello Manta “Sarkin Tike,” Head of the Cattle Market, Iware Ardo-Kola Local Government, Taraba State, on July 6, 2014.

1. When the *Iware* cattle market started, there were traders who were engaged in collecting and gathering cattle from the villages around. They'd then transport the cattle to the market for potential buyers. Mallam Manu Maigoro, one of the traders, said in an interview that whenever they brought the cattle to the market, they would then go around looking for buyers, especially from Jalingo. One of Jalingo's prominent buyers was the late Alhaji Kalaldi (the Sarkin Pawa), who, when contacted, would send his people to go and buy the cattle.
2. As time went on, the cattle market started to expand vigorously at its first site. It was then suggested that they should bring the market to *Iware* town because it was considered more accessible and strategic than at its first site. Consequently, the market was moved to *Iware* in 1983 and located in front of the first “*Sarkin Tike*,” Mallam Idi Kabawa's house, within a short distance of the *Iware* main market. This marked the second phase of the *Iware* cattle market's establishment and development.

Growth and Expansion of *the Iware* Cattle Market

With the establishment of the *Iware* cattle market, it started to receive patronage all over the country. The cattle market's location near the *Iware* main market attracted patronage from a variety of people, ranging from indigenous people to those from outside who had an interest in buying and

selling cattle. The strategic location of the cattle market close to the *Iware* main market provided other advantages to cattle traders, such as ropes, medication, animal feeds, etc. within the main market.

Consequent upon the rapid expansion of the *Iware* cattle market, which was located very close to the main market, the need arose for the cattle market to be relocated to another place due to the following three reasons:

- i. The place is too small to contain both the main market and the cattle market.
- ii. It is too dangerous because there are cattle that are dangerous to keep, especially close to the market, because if such cattle happen to get loose, they may harm people.
- iii. The rapid population growth of both dealers and buyers rendered the original site incapable of further market expansion.

The foregoing and other reasons led to the transfer of the cattle market to a location known as "Kofan Dagadali," close to the main road, in 1986. Even in this place, it was soon discovered that it was too small for the cattle market because it was situated within the town and was surrounded by houses.

Interview with Mallam Manu Maigoro, Sunkami Ardo-kola local government, Taraba State, on July 6, 2014.

With the problem arising from a lack of space, the *Iware* cattle market was relocated to its present site because of its strategic location outside the town. This provided sufficient space for market expansion. It is important to note that the transfer to its new location was effected six years after it was transferred from "*KofanDagadali*" in 1986.

Iware cattle market owes its growth and development to many reasons; some are connected with the town itself, some are outside development,

and some are natural, which help in the growth and expansion of *Iware* cattle market. Above all, it is a known fact that the Benue Valley is a transitional point or region between the northern and southern parts of Nigeria. The region is well watered and has a conducive environment that has good pasture land, which attracted the nomadic Fulani. This attraction gave rise to the nomadic Fulani patronising the area on their way to the southern part of the country, and *Iware* being part of the region happens to be a passageway for the nomadic Fulani who usually go down to the southern part of the country. This gave it an added advantage, which, in turn, facilitated the growth and expansion of the cattle market.

The movement of the Fulani down south during the dry season in search of pasture and their journey back during the rainy season, facilitated the growth of the market due to the following main reasons:.

- i. Some usually sell some cows at *the Iware* cattle market to buy provisions such as food, clothing, medicine, etc., as well as keep some money for eventual expenses on the way.
- ii. The abundance of cows for sale during these two seasons used to automatically reduce the prices per cow, which brought more people into the cow business, either as sellers or buyers. For instance, during these two seasons, a fully grown cow could cost \$60,000. However, after the seasons, the price of a similar fully grown cow could go up to 70–80 thousand naira. At times, cows could sell for 50,000, 40,000, 25,000, 20,000, or even 15,000. This was mainly because of the increase in the number of cows usually brought to the market during the two seasons. For instance, the number of cows brought to the market usually ranged from 800 to 1,000 weekly. ⁹ Similarly, after the two seasons, the number of trucks that usually carried cows to the South typically dropped to

eight, as opposed to 15 to 20 trucks during the two seasons.

- iii. The strategic location of *Iware* on a federal highway that links the north-eastern part of Nigeria with the southern part of the country through Taraba State also facilitated the growth of the *Iware* cattle market. The market served and still serves as a major intermediary between the north-eastern and south-eastern regions in the cattle business.¹¹

Interview with Mallam Abdullahi Usman Iware, Ardo-kola local government area, Taraba State, June 12, 2014.

Interview with Mallam Abdullahi Usman Iware, Ardo-kola local government area, Taraba State, June 12, 2014.

Interviews with Mallam Abdullahi Usman Iware, Ardo-kola local government area, Taraba State, June 12, 2014.

- iv. The trust the indigenous people have for one another. This resulted in peaceful coexistence, which in turn attracted other people to the area, thereby facilitating *Iware's* growth not only as a product but also as a market.
- v. The trust the customers had in the people of *Iware* town made them not only come back for business, but some customers at times usually sent money to their business associates at the *Iware* cattle market, who would buy the cows and take them home. As it is not arguable that nothing would prosper in a violent atmosphere or place, the peaceful nature and coexistence of the *Iware* people also provided an enabling environment for the growth and development of *the Iware* cattle market.

The year 1991 marked a new phase in the development and growth of *the Iware* cattle market in what became *Ardo-Kola* Local Government Area. It

was the year the defunct *Gongola* State was split into Taraba and Adamawa States. This development opened a new era of growth and expansion of the Iware cattle market. By that time, Iware was under Jalingo, which was not only the seat of the Taraba State Capital but also a local government area.

Interview with Muhammed Musa “Sarkin Kasuwan Buhu” Iware, head of the grain market. Iware, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, on June 20, 2014.

After a successful election, Mohammed Sulaiman Dan Dauda assumed office as the Chairman of Jalingo Local Government Area, marking a major step in the transformation of the Iware cattle market. In this regard, he executed the construction of a wall around the cattle market. This not only gave the market a facelift, but it was also a major source of market security. Similarly, it made the market soon become one of the major sources of revenue for the Local Government Council, especially on its market days, Tuesdays. With this development, the market quickly became a major commercial center, not only in the local government area but in the state as a whole.

The Contribution of *the Iware* Cattle Market to the Development of the Area

The *Iware* cattle market is, so far, the biggest in Taraba State and one of the major sources of revenue for the *Ardo-Kola* Local Government Area of the state. The market generates up to 50–100 thousand naira weekly. The revenue collected from the market has been helpful to the Local Government Council, not only in small measure in the day-to-day running of council administration but also in the execution of capital projects.

It is not arguable that trade is an important economic activity. Those who engage in it, either as sellers or buyers, derive enormous benefits of moving it down to *the Iware* cattle market, those who participated in it, both as sellers and buyers, have been benefiting greatly from it. The money or

profit derived is usually used in diverse ways, such as the payment of school fees for their children and dowry, as well as to improve other economic activities such as farming and pilgrimage to Mecca, etc.

The Iware cattle market also improves the trading activities of the Iware people. For example, the Igbo, who typically come from the south to buy cattle, usually bring palm oil and other trade items with them. Whenever they sell the palm oil and other items, they use the money to buy cattle, which are taken to the southern part of the country. The *Iware* local traders, in turn, distribute the oil within and without the state. This helps the local traders in Iware increase their capital, which they invest in other forms of economic activity.

We are not able to lay our hands on the estimated amount of money that was being generated from the cattle market every week. That was just an estimate, going by some of the money that was collected per cow.

Interview with Alhaji Umar Bakari, Director, Agricultural and Natural Resources, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, July 9, 2014.

The *Iware* cattle market also serves as an impetus to the growth and development of other industries and markets in and around *Iware*. For instance, the *Iware* grain market, “*KasuwanBuhu*”, as it is known in *Iware*, owes its growth and development from to the *Iware* cattle market. This is because its growth was influenced as a result of the people coming to the cattlemarket from far and near that the grain market was known. Following the knowledge of the grain market, particularly by the Southerners, many began to come from the south to buy things like maize, beans, groundnut, etc. This was one of the major boosts to the grain market's growth and development.

Interview with Muhammed Musa “Sarkin Kasuwan Buhu “Iware, head of the grain market. Iware, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State on 20th June 2014.

The cattle market also provides small calves, which were mostly bought by people from Kano. The small calves, which were not more than a year and some months old, were bought to be trained as ploughers for draft use in farms. This type of cattle helps in no small measure in the farming activities of the people. This will save the people from looking for human labour and will reduce their expenditure, for if they are to employ human labour, it will cost them much and take more time than the animals will take.

Undoubtedly, the Iware cattle market also provides many Nigerians with various job and business opportunities, such as buying and transferring cattle to the south, providing labor for loading the cows, and other petty jobs. Lastly, the “*minangi*” (cattle dealers), as they were called in Fulfulde, also benefit enormously from the cattle market. Many of them have built personal houses and have engaged in many other forms of business using the money realised for their participation in the cattle business.

The cattle dealers, as we stated in the above paragraph, benefited from the cattle market; they also play an important role in the organisation and distribution of cattle in the market. The cattle dealers play various roles in the cattle market. At times, some cattle owners give cows to them in trust to sell and give back the money to them. Popularly known as “*dillalai*” (dealers) in Hausa, some are, in turn, represented in the market by the “*minangi*”. They are people who stand either in front of the cattle market or at strategic points where they receive cows from willing owners and sell at prices even higher than those fixed by owners for profit. At times, they receive cows from the “*dillalai*” and can sell even more than the prices fixed by the “*dillalai*” for financial gain. At times, too, they serve as representatives of the “*dillalai*”. The “*dillalai*” stand between the sellers and the “*minangi*” and the “*minangi*” stand between the “*dillalai*” and the buyers. Both parties enjoy some financial dividends at the end of the transactions. The advantage the two parties pose to buyers is that they

usually influence the prices of cattle in the market to their advantage.

The provision of beef is one of the main business channels of the *Iware* cattle market. Dealers in beef find the market to be a major source for the commodity's supply. Generally, beef has remained one of the major sources of economic development, not only for the *Iware* people, but also for Nigeria and other countries. In fact, the economic significance of beef to the economies of many countries cannot be overemphasized. For example, the economy of a country like New Zealand is heavily reliant on beef exportation to other countries.

There are also many people, or rather cattle dealers, in *the Iware* market who have prospered as a result of their participation in the cattle business. Prominent among such people are Alh. Babawuro, Alh. Haruna, and Mallam Yero. Alh. Bello Sunkani, Alh. Audu Tela. Some of these people used to take about 4–5 trailers of cattle down to the south, thereby reflecting the enormous financial benefit the people of *Iware* town have continued to derive from the cattle market. This is also a contribution on the cattle market's side.

The *Iware* cattle market *Iware is also a positive platform for promoting inter-group harmony*. It is a place where different people from different backgrounds within Taraba State and across the various states of Nigeria and within Taraba State come together under one umbrella for commercial transactions. This contributes in no small measure to promoting unity among diverse groups of people in various states of the country. Exchanges in the market teach groups about each other's cultures. It contributes equally to promoting intermarriages, not only among the natives, but also between other groups from different parts of the country. This, in turn, promotes peace and unity in both the state and the nation at large.

The *Iware* cattle market has also contributed a lot to population growth and

the development of *Iware* town. It is not arguable that the population of *Iware* town before the establishment of the cattle market cannot be compared with the period during and after the establishment of the market. Before then, *Iware* comprised just a handful of people within the village. But as a result of the establishment of the cattle market, there has been an unusually rapid growth of the population of the town. For example, according to the 1991 population census, *Iware* town had a population of 5,186.17. It is expected that in another 10 years, it will reach up to 10,000 people.

Amos, J. "The Economic Importance of Beef Cattle Production in Jalingo Local Government Area." Taraba state, N.D. project, College of Agriculture Jalingo, Taraba state, February 1999, p. 2.

Interviews with Ali Manti-Manti, Male, 55 years, Unguwan Kassa, *Iware*, Business Man

It is important to note that the population growth in *Iware* town following the establishment of the cattle market is associated with the numerous opportunities the market provides. Many of the people come to look for menial jobs, while some, because of their engagement in the cattle market business, have decided to relocate to the town with their families in order to partake fully in the cattle business. Some even come to participate in other forms of business as a result of the town's population growth. There is no doubt that population plays an important role in a town's development and expansion.

"National Population Commission" Final result of the 1991 population census of Nigeria for *Iware* district, Jalingo local government, and Taraba state.

Even though the *Iware* cattle market is not a political platform for political activities, it provides a good platform for the sharing of political ideas. This is mainly due to its large population, which attracts politicians, especially during party politics. It is not arguable that we cannot separate the human

population from politics. Apart from bringing people of diverse backgrounds together, the growth in the population of *Iware* has accounted for its growth to become a district.

The *Iware* market has also promoted the status of the *Ardo* (leader) of *Iware* town. It has, indeed, promoted his popularity and influence over the neighbouring traditional rulers, as well as contributed in no small measure to uplifting the socio-political and economic importance of *Iware* town.

The market is an important avenue or place for learning about government policies, as well as a medium for disseminating socio-political information. The market also serves as a database for animal diseases. This is because animals are brought from various parts of the state. This allows veterinary personnel to learn about some of the most prevalent animal diseases in the state's various nooks and crannies. This is because some people sell their animals out of economic necessity, while others do so out of sickness.

Impact of the *Iware* Cattle Market on the Economy of *Ardo-Kola* Local Government Council

The establishment of the *Iware* cattle market has had an enormous impact on the socio-political and economic life of *Ardo-Kola* Local Government. Economically, the local government derives significant revenue from the cattle market through revenue usually paid by both sellers and buyers of cows. This has a multiplier effect in the sense that the cattle market has resulted in the expansion of the *Iware* main market, which itself serves as one of the major sources of revenue through levies collected from both traders and sellers, including fees paid on market stores owned, specifically, by the Local Government Council.

Apart from being a source of revenue for the Local Government Council, it also serves as a major source of revenue for individual groups. Firstly,

cattle dealers owe a significant portion of their revenue to the market. Other groups in town who erect “*tirke*” (sticks) for tying the cows equally derive reasonable income, as do the “*gainakos*” who guard the cows during the market day and take care of the cows, especially for taking the unsold cows around for forage until next market day. 20

Interview with Mallam Bello Manga, Ardo Iware District, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, on June 12, 2014.

Interview with Mallam Bello Manga, Ardo Iware District, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, on June 12, 2014.

Secondly, the market has been serving as a meeting or melting pot for people of diverse ethno-religious backgrounds, as previously stated. Some of these people have decided to take permanent residence in *Iware* town. This serves as one of the sources of ethno-religious harmony, not only in *Iware* town but beyond.

Politically, the *Iware* cattle market has contributed enormously to the growth and development of *Iware* town as a centre for political activities in the area. The convergence of people of diverse socio-political and ethnic backgrounds has expanded *Iware*'s size and population from a small settlement to a settlement that now has many wards apart from itself. It cannot be denied that *Iware* town has grown to become the second-largest town after Sunkani, the headquarters of Ardo-Kola Local Government Area. Generally, the *Iware* town plays a significant role in political activities in the area.

Impact of the *Iware* Cattle Market on Neighbouring Communities

The impact of the *Iware* cattle market on neighbouring communities cannot be over-emphasized. The cattle owners who bring their goods to the *Iware* cattle market bring from one to twenty cattle on average on market days, which are every Tuesday of the week. The cattle owners usually entrust their cattle to the care of “*dillalai*,” who, in turn, scout for customers

for a fee known as "la'ada," which could be up to N2000, especially at the terminating point of this study. It is important to note that the *dillalai* come from far and near to benefit from the economic opportunities offered by the *Iware* cattle market.

The *Iware* cattle market has also facilitated the provision of social amenities for both residents of *Iware* town and the surrounding communities. Prominent among the amenities are boreholes for water supply. The number of cows brought in called for a water source for the cows. The efforts by the government to provide boreholes have been complemented by cattle owners who have drilled more boreholes in the market for water, not only for the cows but also for the residents. The increase in population in the area has also attracted waterhawkers to the town since the boreholes are still not very adequate to serve the ever-increasing population. This development has multiplier effects on other businesses, such as the need for more residential apartments provided by people in and around *Iware* town. 24

Interview with Mallam Bello Manga, Ardo *Iware* District, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, on June 12, 2014.

Interview with Mallam Bello Manga, Ardo *Iware* District, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, on June 12, 2014.

Interview with Mallam Bello Manga, Ardo *Iware* District, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, on June 12, 2014.

[23](#) Interview with Alhaji Umar Bakari, Director, Agricultural and Natural Resources, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, July 9, 2014.

Other accompanying social amenities provided by *Iware* people and their neighbours include the establishment of restaurants, etc. with attendant facilities such as generators for power supply, in addition to those provided by the Power Holding Company. This has improved the quality of life for *Iware* residents.

The growth and expansion of the *Iware* cattle market have equal economic benefits for transport owners in and around *the* town. Many pick-up truck owners usually have a business boom, especially during *Iware* cattle market days on Tuesday. On the market days, sometimes pick-ups and other trucks used to be inadequate to convey the cows to the market. The events are always also busy business hours for some buyers who usually have to convey their cows to their places. At times, some unsold cows are taken back home by their owners. All of these increase the demand for pick-up vans and trucks for transportation.

It should be noted that the eventual rapid growth of the *Iware* cattle market is linked to the expansion of the demand for beef across the country, particularly in the southern part in areas such as *Umuahia*, *Okigwe*, *Lokpanta*, Port Harcourt, Lagos, etc. The expansion of the *Umuahia* cattle market also serves as a booster for the growth of the *Iware* cattle market. This development has many positive financial benefits for cattle dealers in and around *Iware* Town.

Problems and Prospects of *the Iware* Cattle Market

Some of the major problems the *Iware* cattle market faces are associated with infrastructure, security, and banking facilities. For instance, the cattle market lacks adequate and good water supply sources that will satisfy the much-needed demand for both human and animal consumption. Even though in the past years the government had provided an overhead tank near the cattle market to satisfy both the market and the town dwellers, it is no longer working. To have clean drinking water on the market is a problem the government should pay much attention to because of the paramount importance of the commodity to both humans and animals alike.

Interview with Alhaji Umar Bakari, Director, Agricultural and Natural Resources, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, 2014.

Haruna Muhammad Suleimuri (2013), Umuahia Cattle Industry and the Organization of the Cattle Market and Trade, 1914–2000. *Global Journal of Human Social Science History, Archaeology, and Anthropology*, Volume 13, Issue 1, Global Journals Inc. (USA)., July 9, 2014.

Interview with Alhaji Umar Bakari, Director, Agricultural and Natural Resources, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, July

The *Iware* cattle market lacks adequate tents. A standard cattle market of this nature needs to list several tents that will provide shade for the people who are engaged in the business. In fact, a lack of adequate tents is a major problem for the market. Even though the government provided two big tents in the past years for the market, only one is remaining at present, while the other one has been blown by wind, without any efforts by the government to repair it, despite complaints lodged with the local government by the *SarkinTike*.

The *Iware* cattle market is equally deficient in loading ramps. It is not debatable that the loading ramp is one of the essential parts of a modern cattle market, without which the market is incomplete. *The Iware* cattle market, like any other modern cattle market, needs three to four loading ramps. Unfortunately, the market lacks these facilities, as lamented by *SarkinTike* during an interview. In the absence of the facilities, *SarkinTike* lamented that cow loaders usually apply direct human efforts to load cows into trucks, which is a very risky venture.

There is also the problem of cattle dealers, "dillallai," who suffocate the market by overcharging the consumers and underpaying the producers, [30](#) as well as influencing an increase in the price of beef. Combining their business acumen and extortion, the cattle dealers have become wealthier and more influential than the primary producers. [31](#)

Security is also of paramount importance. In an establishment like this, security is of paramount importance for its growth and development.

Considering the past years, especially in the 1990s, there have been repeated problems of armed robbery and stealing of cattle within and outside the market. This has continued to discourage the number of customers from coming to patronise the market. This has also reduced the amount of revenue generated from the market.

Accessibility also plays a major role in the development of a cattle market. Accessible road networks within the surrounding communities to any cattle market are of paramount importance for the movement of cows in and out of the market. Notwithstanding the claim that the Fulani are nomadic people who are used to movement with the cows through un-motorable bush paths for grazing and for conveying the cows to markets for sale, modern trends demand movements through modern means of transportation.³² Unfortunately, apart from the federal road that passes through Iware town as a major link between the North-Eastern and South-Eastern regions, in particular, there are very few untarred roads that link the Iware cattle market with the surrounding settlements that serve as sources for the supply of cows. Even the few existing roads are almost always unusable due to their deplorable conditions, in addition to armed robbery cases.³³

Interview with Mallam Bello Manga, Ardo Iware District, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, on June 12, 2014.

Interview with Mallam Bello Manta "Sarkin Tike," Head of the Cattle Market, Iware Ardo-Kola Local Government, Taraba State, on July 6, 2014.

Interview with Mallam Bello Manta "Sarkin Tike," Head of the Cattle Market, Iware Ardo-Kola Local Government, Taraba State, on July 6, 2014.

Interview with Alhaji Umar Bakari, Director, Agricultural and Natural Resources, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State, July 9, 2014.

³¹ Ismail Iro, 1994, "Livestock Transportation and Marketing," African

Development Foundation, Washington, DC, USA, available at <http://www.gamji.com/fulani10.htm>

The lack of a bank or financial institution is another setback to the growth and development of the absence-based cattle market. It cannot be argued that the market needs a bank. This is not only necessary for the cattle market, but also for many other transactions and economic activities within and around its environs. The presence of a bank will create a lot of opportunities for cattle dealers and those who are engaged in other businesses. This will ensure the safety of using money as a means of payment, especially in our modern world, which has provided for online banking. It will equally save dealers and buyers from the risk of carrying huge sums of money.

The Iware cattle market also lacks a veterinary clinic. A veterinary clinic is an essential part of a cattle market. This is particularly true for a place like *Iware*, which has abundant livestock not only in the market but in the surrounding settlements. Even though there are always veterinary officials in the market, some cattle-related health problems cannot be handled without the necessary equipment, which is supposed to be kept in a clinic for use, since a veterinarian cannot be holding some of the equipment everywhere he goes. A clinic will provide the veterinarian with a proper platform for inspecting and dictating those animals that have health problems and are therefore not good for human consumption.

The foregoing, as well as many other challenges not captured in the paper, are major problems militating against the smooth growth and development of the *Iware* cattle market. Some of these problems have been presented to the government by *SarkinTike*. Unfortunately, even those problems that have attracted government attention and mitigation efforts so far have not

adequately addressed the challenges. There is, however, still hope that the government will sooner or later come in to tackle the challenges, since the market is one of the major sources of revenue generation, especially by Ardo-Kola Local Government Council.

Ismail Iro, 1994, "Livestock Transportation and Marketing," African Development Foundation, Washington, DC, USA, available at <http://www.gamji.com/fulani10.htm>

Ismail Iro, 1994, "Livestock Transportation and Marketing," African Development Foundation, Washington, DC, USA, available at <http://www.gamji.com/fulani10.htm>

On July 14, 2014, 34 interviews were conducted with Mallam Yakubu H. Shata, Veterinary Staff in Iware Cattle Market, Ardo-Kola Local Government Area, Taraba State.

Conclusion

The establishment of *Iware* town and *the Iware* cattle market was influenced by the strategic location of the area. Even the peopling of the area is largely influenced by the nature of the area. Apart from the fertility of the soil in and around *Iware*, another important feature of *the* town is its location on a major trade route between Muri Emirate and the southern part of Nigeria.

The impact of the *Iware* cattle market is felt both far and near. In the case of the *Iware* people, the presence of many traders and customers has been a major boost for food restaurant owners, as well as those who sell minerals and snacks in kiosks in the market. Other neighboring communities also have a lot of trade items to sell on the market.

The *Iware* cattle market has become the major source of revenue generation for *Ardo-Kola* Local Government Council, ultimately leading to the development of other economic activities in the local government area. Generally, the market has been contributing a lot as a source of

income and revenue, both to the government and to the people who are engaged in one way or another in commercial activities in the market.

Notwithstanding the enormous benefits being accrued from the *Iware* market, both to the government and individuals, the market is confronted with the daunting challenges mentioned elsewhere in this paper. Consequently, the following recommendations are proffered as means of mitigating the challenges:

1. In recent history, however, pastoralism has faced many challenges because, as a way of life for the people, it is difficult to effect any change in the system. The system needs reform, not a ban, which various state governments in Nigeria are trying very hard to do, with many catastrophic consequences.
2. The government should endeavour to invest more in the business of cattle rearing and trading because there is much to gain in the form of revenue for the government and it is also a profitable business for the people.
3. The government should provide an enabling environment for general cattle trading.
4. The government should provide infrastructure in the cattle market to cater to both the cattle and the people in it. The government needs to pay more attention to providing essential amenities in the cattle market.

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