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# Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Livestock Production in Nigeria Using an Econometric Approach

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## ABSTRACT

Climate change influences livestock production in two different ways, including favorable and unfavorable conditions. When the climatic conditions are favorable, it boosts livestock production, but when the conditions are unfavorable, it poses a threat to livestock sustainability and affects food security and the livelihood of livestock farmers. In this study, the researchers examined the relationship between climate change and livestock production in Nigeria from 1993 to 2024 using an Autoregressive Distributed Lag Model. The findings indicate that climate variables, including temperature, rainfall, and humidity, significantly impact livestock production. The outcome for temperature shows a positive effect in the short term but a negative impact in the long term. Meanwhile, rainfall has a bad effect in the short term but a good effect in the long term. Consequently, livestock production in Nigeria is currently being constrained by climate change, particularly the frequent occurrence of droughts. The study suggests implementing climate-resilient strategies, balancing adaptation and mitigation plans, and using more irrigation technology in areas prone to drought to ensure sufficient livestock production.

**Keywords:** ARDL, climate change, Climate-resilient strategies, Food security, Livestock production

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The relationship between livestock farming and climate change is a multifaceted issue that requires an in-depth study (Godde et al. 2021; Cheng et al. 2022). Climate change threatens the long-term success of livestock farming, causing significant drops in production (Scoones, 2023). In developing countries, the predominant population depends on agriculture, with livestock accounting for about 40% of the total farm output (Mas-Coma., 2024). Rainfall variability, high cost of feeds, and high temperature have adverse effects on livestock farming (Henry et al., 2018). Sheikh (2017) argues that unfavorable climatic variability affects animal health,

productivity, and sustainability. According to the World Bank report, Nigeria has the largest population of livestock in Africa reared under traditional nomadic pastoralism. The livestock sector contributes about 20% to the farm-based GDP and 5% to the county's GDP (World Bank, 2024). Thus, extreme climate events, including heat stress, drought, desertification, and flooding, have led to the migration of farmers with their livestock, death of livestock and reduced livestock production (Bogale and Erana, 2022). Agriculture, which is the predominant source of income for the rural population, particularly livestock sector, faces multidimensional challenges due to climate change and variability.

Some scholars have conducted research on the impact of climate change on livestock health and productivity. Research result shows that extreme weather conditions impact the output and well-being of farm animals (Ali et al. 2020; Theusme et al. 2020). Vinet et al. (2024) in their study on the effect of temperature-humidity index on the evolution of trade-offs between fertility and production in dairy cattle indicates that changes in rainfall pattern and high temperature lead to low productivity, overheating, poor feeding, and frequent illness in livestock. Scholars have predicted an increase in the demand for animal products over time, however, greenhouse gas emission and global warming pose a great threat to livestock's long-term viability (Park, 2022). Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa account for 85% of the world's livestock production, yet they produce only 2.9% of dairy milk (Erdaw, 2023).

This research examined the dynamic effect of climate change on livestock production in Nigeria using an econometric ARDL model. Thus, understanding the effects of climate change on livestock production, this research provides insights for adapting and mitigating its impacts on the livestock sector. Therefore, having a good knowledge of the link between climate change and livestock production is crucial for developing effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. The research findings will contribute to the existing knowledge on climate change and livestock production, providing valuable insights for policymakers, farmers, and stakeholders. Consequently, by identifying the key problems and impacts of climate change on livestock production, this study will provide a basis for the development of effective adaptation and mitigation strategies to improve the resilience of the livestock production system in Nigeria.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### Data source

The research analyzed the effects of climate change on livestock production in Nigeria using time series from 1993 to 2024. The data on climate change and livestock production used in this study were sourced from the World Development Indicators (WDI) database and the World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Variables used in this study are total livestock production index (lnLVSK), mean annual temperature (lnTEM), Mean annual rainfall (lnRFF), mean annual humidity (lnHum), total carbon emission (lnCO2), and cereal production (lnCRE). All these variables were transformed into natural logarithms as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Data Sources and Climate Variables

| Variable                         | Symbol | Description of variables use in the model                                 | Sources of data    |
|----------------------------------|--------|---|--------------------|
| Total livestock production index | lnLVSK | Livestock Production Index (meat, milk, hides and skin) from all sources. | (World Bank, 2024) |
| Temperature                      | lnTEM  | Mean Annual Temperature   |                    |
| Humidity                         | lnHum  | Mean Annual Humidity  |                    |
| Precipitation                    | lnPER  | Mean Annual Precipitation   |                    |
| CO <sub>2</sub> emissions        | lnCO2  | Annual Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emission                         |                    |
| Cereal production                | lnCER  | Total cereals production relate to crops harvested for dry grain only.    |                    |

### Econometric Model Specification

Time series analysis was used to investigate the dynamic relationship between climate change and food production in Nigeria. The ARDL (Autoregressive Distributed Lag) model was employed to examine the short- and long-run relationships among the variables. Climate change is represented by four variables: mean annual temperature, mean annual rainfall, mean annual humidity, and mean annual carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. Another explanatory variable that affects livestock production is cereal production.

Model Description: The general equation of this study is as follows:

$$\lnLVSKt = F(\lnTEMt, \lnPERt, \lnHUMt, \lnCO2t, \lnCRET) \quad (1)$$

$$\ln LVSkt = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln TEM_t + \beta_2 \ln PER_t + \beta_3 \ln Hum_t + \beta_4 \ln CO2_t + \beta_5 \ln CRE_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (2)$$

Where  $\ln LVSkt$  is the natural logarithm of livestock production index,  $\ln TEM_t$  is the natural logarithm of annual average surface temperature,  $\ln PER_t$  is the natural logarithm of average annual precipitation,  $\ln Hum_t$  is the natural logarithm of annual average humidity,  $\ln CO2$  is the natural logarithm of carbon dioxide emissions,  $\ln CRE$  is the natural logarithm of cereal production, and  $\varepsilon_t$  is the disturbance term.

### The Autoregressive Distributed lag (ARDL) model

This article used the ARDL bound test to look at the relationship between variables in the long run. The simplified model is as follows

$$\Delta \ln LVSkt = \varphi_0 + \sum_{i=1}^r \varphi_1 \Delta \ln LVSkt_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \varphi_2 \Delta \ln TEM_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \varphi_3 \Delta \ln PER_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \varphi_4 \Delta \ln Hum_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \varphi_5 \Delta \ln CO2_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \varphi_6 \Delta \ln CRE_{t-i} + \varnothing_1 \ln LVSkt_{t-i} + \varnothing_2 \ln TEM_{t-i} + \varnothing_3 \ln PER_{t-i} + \varnothing_4 \ln Hum_{t-i} + \varnothing_5 \ln CO2_{t-i} + \varnothing_6 \ln CRE_{t-i} + \varepsilon_t \quad (3)$$

Where  $\Delta$  represents the first difference of all variables  $\ln LVSkt$ ,  $\ln PER$ ,  $\ln TEM$ ,  $\ln CER$ ,  $\ln Hum$ , and  $\ln CO2$ . Whereas, the variables imply the value of optimum lag length, Schwarz's Bayesian Information Criterion (SBIC), the value, and the estimated coefficient of the long and short run model. For annual time series data, the optimum lag length determination (Pesaran et al, 2001). This bound F-statistic was applied to each variable, treating the endogenous variables as endogenous and the others as exogenous. The null and alternative hypotheses for the bound test are given below.

$$\text{Null hypothesis } H_0: = \varnothing_1 = \varnothing_2 = \varnothing_3 = \varnothing_4 = \varnothing_5 = \varnothing_6 = 0$$

$$\text{Alternative hypothesis } H_1: = \varnothing_1 \neq \varnothing_2 \neq \varnothing_3 \neq \varnothing_4 \neq \varnothing_5 \neq \varnothing_6 \neq 0$$

The above hypothesis is accepted or rejected based on the estimated F-statistic and the critical value. Correspondingly, the long-run relationship between the variables, specified using the ARDL model, is presented below.

$$\Delta \ln LVSkt = \varphi_0 + \sum_{i=1}^r \delta_1 \ln LVSkt_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \delta_2 \ln TEM_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \delta_3 \ln PER_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \delta_4 \ln Hum_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \delta_5 \ln CO2_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \delta_6 \ln CER_{t-i} + U_t \quad (4)$$

Based on the above equation, the coefficient of long-run variability of the model is denoted. Further, to estimate the short-run relationship between the variables, the ARDL error-correction model (ECM) was developed as follows.

$$\Delta \ln LVSkt = \varphi_0 + \sum_{i=1}^r \rho_1 \Delta \ln LVSkt_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \rho_2 \Delta \ln TEM_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \rho_3 \Delta \ln PER_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \rho_4 \Delta \ln Hum_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \rho_5 \Delta \ln CO2_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^r \rho_6 \Delta \ln CER_{t-i} + \varepsilon_t \quad (5)$$

In equation 5 above, the short-run relationship between food production and other explanatory variables is evaluated using an error relationship model with a value coefficient. The value coefficient of the error correction term (ECT) measures the time required for the adjustment of disequilibrium.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Table 2, the descriptive statistics for all the variables used in this study are presented. The results indicate that the highest mean value, 16.487, is for cereal production ( $\ln CER$ ), followed by carbon dioxide emission ( $\ln CO2$ ) at 15.716. Also, the annual average temperature has a value of 3.123, which is the lowest among the variables used. Cereal output gave a maximum value of 17.26, whereas the mean annual carbon dioxide emission has a maximum value of 16.873. Humidity and Temperature recorded lower standard

deviations from their mean values, with values of 0.041 and 0.016, respectively. The above results agree with the research results conducted by Erdaw (2023)

**Table 1** : Descriptive Statistics

| Variable          | Obs. | Mean   | Std. Dev. | Min    | Max    |
|-------------------|------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|
| lnLVSK            | 30   | 4.361  | .342      | 3.787  | 4.845  |
| lnTEM             | 30   | 3.123  | .016      | 3.095  | 3.154  |
| lnPER             | 30   | 6.751  | .094      | 6.573  | 6.955  |
| lnHum             | 30   | 3.962  | .041      | 3.875  | 4.028  |
| lnCO <sub>2</sub> | 30   | 15.716 | .686      | 14.603 | 16.873 |
| lnCRE             | 30   | 16.487 | .571      | 15.475 | 17.269 |

The integration order of each variable was determined using a unit root test. Also, the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) and Phillips-Perron (PP) tests were used (David and Dickey, 1979; Perron, 1988). Table 3 indicates that all other variables used in this study are not stationary at the level, except temperature and precipitation.

**Table 2**: Unit root test evaluation

| Variables         | Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) |         |                  |       | Phillips-Peron (PP) |       |                   |       |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
|                   | At level                      |         | Frist difference |       | At level            |       | Frist differences |       |
|                   | T-Stat.                       | Prob.   | T-Stat.          | Prob. | T-Stat.             | Prob. | T-Stat.           | Prob. |
| lnLVSK            | -1.266                        | 0.1081  | -2.485**         | 0.031 | -2.091              | 0.551 | -4.343***         | 0.000 |
| lnTEM             | -3.022                        | 0.002** | -2.187***        | 0.009 | -4.925              | 0.003 | -4.934 ***        | 0.003 |
| ln PER            | -4.079*                       | 0.0002  | -2.925***        | 0.003 | -5.739              | 0.000 | -5.759***         | 0.000 |
| lnHum             | -1.240                        | 0.235   | -6.891***        | 0.000 | -.889               | 0.532 | -8.331***         | 0.000 |
| lnCO <sub>2</sub> | -0.918                        | 0.1834  | -5.495***        | 0.000 | -4.031              | 0.007 | -5.572***         | 0.000 |
| lnCER             | -1.148                        | 0.1306  | -8.433***        | 0.000 | -1.401              | 0.051 | -8.852***         | 0.000 |

Note \*, \*\*, \*\*\* represents 10%, 5% and 1%

It is worth noting that all variables are stationary at their first differences, meaning that the variables used in this study are all integrated of order one (Perron, 1988). Moreover, after conducting a unit root test, the research further examined the optimal lag length for the model (Perron, 1988). The research results corroborate the work of David and Dickey (1979). Table 4 presents the optimal lag selection. Consequently, the model selected lag 4, which is free from diagnostic test error, as a better lag value.

**Table 3**: Lag selection and bund test

| Lag | LL      | LR      | df.     | P        | FPE     | AIC       | HQIC      | SBIC     |
|-----|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 0   | 165.446 |         | 1.9e-13 | -12.2651 | 12.1815 | -11.9748  |           |          |
| 1   | 242.937 | 154.98  | 36      | 0.000    | 8.5e-15 | -15.4567  | -14.8714  | -13.4244 |
| 2   | 288.062 | 90.251  | 36      | 0.000    | 7.0e-15 | -16.1586  | -15.0718  | -12.3843 |
| 3   | 434.394 | 292.67  | 36      | 0.000    | 8.7e-18 | -24.6457  | -23.0572  | -19.1295 |
| 4   | 2876.72 | 4884.6* | 36      | 0.000    | 5.6e94* | -209.748* | -207.657* | 202.489* |

Also, the cointegration bound test was carried out to determine the long-run relationship between climate change variables and livestock production in Nigeria (Narayan and Smyth, 2005). Table 5 results show a long-run relationship among the variables. In addition, the bound test for cointegration shows that the null hypothesis was rejected by comparing the calculated F and t values with their critical values. The rejection of the null hypotheses indicates a long-run relationship among all variables. The research result aligns with a study by Bogale and Erena (2022).

**Table 4:** Bounds test result

|                 | K      | 10%   |       | 5%    |       | 1%    |       |
|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                 |        | I(0)  | I(1)  | I(0)  | I(1)  | I(0)  | I(1)  |
| <b>F- value</b> | 12.299 | 2.26  | 3.35  | 2.62  | 3.79  | 3.41  | 4.68  |
| <b>T- value</b> | -7.193 | -2.57 | -3.86 | -2.86 | -4.19 | -3.43 | -4.79 |

Table 6 presents diagnostic test results. The diagnostic test was carried out, and the model passed all tests, including the Jarque-Bera test for normality, the autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (ARCH) test, the Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey test for heteroskedasticity, the Ramsey RESET test for omitted variables, and the Breusch-Godfrey LM test for autocorrelation.

**Table 5:** Diagnostic statistics tests

| Diagnostic statistics tests                          | Prob > chi2 |
|--|-------------|
| Breusch Godfrey LM test                              | 0.2383      |
| Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey test                           | 0.8762      |
| Autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (ARCH) | 0.6254      |
| Ramsey RESET test                                    | 0.2115      |
| Jarque-Bera Test                                     | 0.365       |

In Table 7, the short-run and long-run dynamic models are presented. The results show that in the short-run, temperature has a significant favorable effect on livestock production, whereas in the long-run, temperature has a significant unfavorable effect on livestock production. Studies have shown that higher temperatures accelerate the growth of fodder for animal grazing (Singh and Ukey, 2024). Therefore, temperature has a positive effect on livestock production in the short run up to a certain point. In general, a rise in temperature has an adverse effect on livestock production due to heat stress, which reduces livestock reproduction and increases the spread of disease (Singh and Ukey, 2024; Vinet et al., 2024).

**Table 6:** Long and short run dynamic model results

| Variables                         | Coefficient | Std. err. | T      | P>t   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-------|
| <b>Long run estimates</b>         |             |           |        |       |
| lnTEM                             | -15.559***  | 4.124     | -3.770 | 0.013 |
| lnPER                             | 3.179***    | 0.331     | 9.610  | 0.000 |
| lnHum                             | -6.335***   | 0.680     | -9.320 | 0.000 |
| lnCO <sub>2</sub>                 | -0.248**    | 0.114     | -2.180 | 0.031 |
| lnCRE                             | 0.641**     | 0.205     | 3.120  | 0.026 |
| <b>Short run estimates</b>        |             |           |        |       |
| ΔlnTEM                            | 19.09***    | 4.083     | 4.680  | 0.005 |
| ΔlnTEM <sub>t-1</sub>             | 16.33***    | 2.543     | 6.420  | 0.001 |
| ΔlnTEM <sub>t-2</sub>             | 9.885***    | 2.437     | 4.060  | 0.010 |
| ΔlnPER                            | -0.974***   | 0.247     | -3.940 | 0.011 |
| ΔlnPER <sub>t-1</sub>             | -0.023      | 0.214     | -0.110 | 0.920 |
| ΔlnPER <sub>t-2</sub>             | 0.310       | 0.177     | 1.760  | 0.139 |
| ΔlnHum                            | 5.068***    | 0.499     | 10.150 | 0.000 |
| ΔlnHum <sub>t-1</sub>             | 3.642***    | 0.361     | 10.080 | 0.000 |
| ΔlnHum <sub>t-2</sub>             | 3.111***    | 0.378     | 8.220  | 0.000 |
| ΔlnCO <sub>2</sub>                | 0.191**     | 0.064     | 3.000  | 0.030 |
| ΔlnCO <sub>2</sub> <sub>t-1</sub> | 0.091       | 0.051     | 1.790  | 0.133 |
| ΔlnCO <sub>2</sub> <sub>t-2</sub> | -0.060      | 0.045     | -1.340 | 0.238 |
| ΔlnCRE                            | -0.444**    | 0.131     | -3.390 | 0.019 |

|                            |           |       |        |       |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|-------|
| $\Delta \ln \text{CREt-1}$ | -0.769**  | 0.206 | -3.720 | 0.014 |
| $\Delta \ln \text{CREt-2}$ | -0.917*** | 0.165 | -5.550 | 0.003 |
| ECT(-1)                    | -0.750*** | 0.081 | -9.230 | 0.000 |
| Cons                       | 37.58***  | 7.421 | 5.060  | 0.004 |

Note, \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.10.

Precipitation has a positive and significant effect on livestock production in the short run but an adverse significant effect in the long run. This implies that in the short run, moderate rainfall creates a good environment for high fodder production. The conducive environment leads to high livestock productivity (Emediegwu and Ubabukoh, 2022). On the other hand, extreme precipitation reduces grazing land area due to flooding and land degradation, leading to a scarcity of fodder for livestock. Moreover, flooding resulting from high rainfall also increases the risk of vector-borne diseases, which affect livestock productivity (Emediegwu and Ubabukoh, 2022; Leweri et al., 2021).

Humidity has a positive significant effect on livestock production in the short run but an adverse significant effect in the long run. Optimal humidity can enhance livestock productivity, comfort, and health. Optimal humidity helps maintain moisture in the respiratory system, thus reducing frustration and the risk of respiratory disorders caused by dry air (Xiong, 2017). Inhalation of dust particles may result in respiratory problems. Therefore, maintaining the relative humidity in the atmosphere would enhance the reduction in the amount of dust particles available in the air. An environment with moderate relative humidity enhances the reproduction rate of livestock (Rojas-Downing et al., 2017; Cheng et al., 2022; Xiong, 2017).

Carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere without plant sequestration are highly detrimental to the environment, with a global effect. Xiong (2017) states that high concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere raise the temperature within the milieu, which also affects the health of livestock. Despite the adverse effects of carbon dioxide on livestock production, it plays an important role in agricultural growth, particularly in livestock sustainability.

An increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration supports photosynthesis, leading to higher crop yields for livestock feed. Carbon dioxide improves water use efficiency in plants, enabling them to survive with less water (Scoones, 2023). Carbon dioxide plays an important role in global crop and livestock production (Ainsworth et al., 2020). Cereal production directly affects livestock production. This is because cereal production serves as a primary source of energy and nutrients for livestock. Cereals such as maize, millet, sorghum, rice, and wheat provide energy and support the growth and maintenance of livestock.

## 4. CONCLUSION

Livestock production is the predominant source of livelihood among the rural population in Nigeria, particularly in Northern Nigeria. However, livestock production is highly affected by climate change. This paper conducted a comprehensive ARDL study on livestock production and the climate change index in Nigeria from 1993 to 2024. The research outcomes indicate that livestock production is adversely affected in the short-run by rainfall but positively influenced in the long-run. Besides, constant exposure to humid air and the dissolving of Carbon dioxide in the air put pressure on livestock production. Meanwhile, cereals have a positive impact. To achieve sustainable livestock production in Nigeria, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies are essential. The strategies include developing climate-resilient livestock feeding options, effective water management, early warning systems, heat-tolerant livestock breeds, and promotion of climate-resilient crops used in livestock feed production. Implementing mitigation strategies, such as (a) Climate-smart manure management (manure storage and treatment, anaerobic digestion, composting, nutrient management) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve water quality, improve livestock health, and productivity. (b) Improved animal diets (feed optimization, alternative feed sources, forage-based diets, feed additives) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve feed efficiency, enhance animal health, and productivity. Climate adaptation and mitigation are important in achieving food security, economic sustainability, and environmental conservation.

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**Authors contributions**

Jude Nwafor Eze was involved in conceptualization, methodology, data collection and analysis, and writing the original draft  
 Niran Nureen Ayanniyi was involved in data curation, investigation, validation, writing – review and editing  
 Dickson Junior Nwosu focused on methodology, software handling, visualization, writing – review and editing of the draft  
 Bolaji Zuluqurneen Salihu carried out the literature review aspect, data Interpretation, and also was involved in writing – review and editing  
 Abasianyanga Edem Isong was involved in the conceptualization, supervision of the research work, writing – review and Editing

**Informed consent**

Not applicable.

**Ethical approval**

Not applicable. This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

**Conflicts of interests**

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**Data and materials availability**

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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