

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: JNAVS -0002

Title: Evaluation of Reproductive Performance of Two Rabbit Breeds in Nigeria.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity			✓	
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: ANAPANA GOPAL

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

1. General Comments

The manuscript provides a comprehensive comparison of reproductive performance between

New Zealand White (NZW) and Nigerian Indigenous Rabbits (NIR) under semi-arid conditions

in northern Nigeria. The topic is highly relevant, particularly given the growing emphasis on

climate-smart livestock production and the need to identify thermotolerant breeds for

sustainable smallholder farming. The study is well-motivated and supported with adequate

background information, solid methodology, and meaningful interpretation. However, the

manuscript would benefit from minor improvements in clarity, reduction of redundancy in the

discussion, and refinement of statistical presentation. Overall, it makes a useful contribution

to animal production research in tropical environments.

2. Content and Originality

The study contributes original and region-specific evidence on the comparative performance of

exotic vs. indigenous rabbit breeds under semi-arid thermal stress. Although previous studies

exist, data from northern Nigeria remain limited, making the work locally important. The

integration of reproductive, environmental, and economic parameters increases the originality

and multidimensional value of the research. Including THI thresholds and productivity loss

analysis is a strong point. Nevertheless, some aspects—such as maternal behaviour and nest quality—are mentioned but not fully integrated into the statistical analysis; strengthening

these would enhance originality further. **3. Technical Quality**

The experimental design (RCBD across three seasons) is appropriate, and sample sizes,

though modest, are justified. Data collection methods are clearly described, and the statistical

tests used are suitable for the study objectives. The tables are informative, but some

parameters (e.g., nest score distributions, confidence intervals, exact p-values) could be better

presented. The economic analysis is useful but simplified; inclusion of additional cost

components would improve the robustness. Overall, the technical foundation is sound, but

clarity in the reporting of statistical assumptions and effect sizes would enhance scientific

rigor.

4. Language and Presentation

The manuscript is generally well-written, but several sentences are excessively long and could

be tightened for better readability. Minor grammatical issues, inconsistent spacing, and

typographical errors (e.g., missing spaces before citations) occur throughout.
Paragraph

transitions are smooth, but the discussion contains repetitive statements about thermal

stress effects and indigenous breed adaptability. Figures could be considered for THI trends or

seasonal productivity patterns to enhance presentation. The abstract is strong but slightly

lengthy; condensing key findings would make it more impactful.

5. Structure and Organization

The paper follows a clear scientific structure—Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results,

Discussion, Conclusion, and Recommendations. The Introduction is detailed and sets a strong

context, though it may be condensed slightly. Methods are well-organized but could benefit

from clearer subsections (e.g., “Housing,” “Feeding,” “Environmental Monitoring”). Results are

logically arranged; however, combining “Results and Discussion” could make interpretation more fluid. The Conclusion is concise and aligns well with the results. Recommendations are

practical and consistent with the study’s findings.

6. References and Citations

The references are adequate, recent, and relevant. The manuscript cites authoritative sources

from FAO and recent journal articles. However, some citations contain formatting

inconsistencies, and a few DOIs are incorrectly placed or lack proper spacing. The referencing

style should be standardized according to the journal’s guidelines. Additional references on

rabbit thermotolerance and maternal behaviour could strengthen the background and

discussion sections.

7. Overall Recommendation

The manuscript provides valuable insights into rabbit production under semi-arid conditions

and presents both scientific and practical relevance. With minor revisions—particularly in

language refinement, reduction of repetition, improved statistical clarity, and formatting

corrections—the paper will be suitable for publication.

Final Decision:

Minor Revision

(The work is strong but requires small improvements before acceptance.)