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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-57386**

Title: Caractérisation des exploitations piscicoles dans le nord du Sénégal : cas des régions de Saint-Louis, Matam et Louga.

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

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

Reviewer Name: **Faheem Abdul Muneeb**

Reviewer's Comment

The manuscript presents an empirical characterization of fish farming systems in the northern regions of Senegal, focusing on Saint-Louis, Matam, and Louga. The study addresses a relevant and policy-significant issue, particularly in the context of increasing pressure on capture fisheries and the growing importance of aquaculture as a source of food security, employment, and rural development. By providing a detailed overview of organisational structures, production systems, input supply chains, and constraints faced by fish farmers, the paper contributes useful empirical insights into a sector that remains under-documented in many parts of West Africa.

The manuscript is grounded in field-based data and reflects a clear effort to capture the realities of aquaculture practices in the study area. The inclusion of both socio-economic and technical dimensions enhances the comprehensiveness of the analysis. The research objective is clearly stated, and the study is appropriately situated within the broader context of aquaculture development in Senegal.

REVIEWER'S REPORT**Scientific Contribution and Analytical Depth**

The primary strength of the manuscript lies in its descriptive richness and its ability to document the structural characteristics of fish farming systems. The findings provide valuable information on farmer demographics, production methods, species composition, and market channels. For instance, as indicated in the results section, tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) dominates production (over 80%), while ponds and cages are the most commonly used infrastructures. The data presented across pages 6–9 offer a detailed picture of production systems, including infrastructure size, stocking density, and input sources, which are particularly useful for practitioners and policymakers.

The identification of key constraints—such as disruptions in the supply of fingerlings and feed, high input costs, limited access to finance, and inadequate technical capacity—is especially important. These findings are consistent with broader literature on aquaculture in developing countries and reinforce the relevance of the study.

However, the analytical depth of the manuscript could be further strengthened. The discussion section tends to reiterate descriptive findings and aligns them with existing studies, but there is limited critical interpretation of the results. The paper would benefit from a more analytical engagement that goes beyond comparison and seeks to explain underlying structural issues, such as why certain production systems dominate or how institutional support mechanisms influence farm performance. Additionally, clearer differentiation between regions in terms of performance, constraints, and opportunities would enhance the contribution of the study.

Methodology and Research Design

The methodological approach, based on survey data collected from a sample representing approximately 50% of the fish farming population in the study area, is appropriate for a characterization study. The use of structured questionnaires, supported by field visits and observational data, provides a solid empirical foundation. The application of tools such as Sphinx software for data processing and ArcGIS for mapping (as illustrated in the map on page 5) adds value to the analysis.

Nonetheless, certain methodological aspects require clarification. The rationale for the sample size and its representativeness could be more explicitly justified. While the sample proportion is stated, further discussion on sampling limitations and potential biases would improve transparency. In addition, the analytical techniques remain largely descriptive; incorporating more rigorous statistical analysis, even at a basic comparative level, could strengthen the robustness of the findings.

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Structure, Style, and Presentation

The manuscript follows a conventional academic structure, including introduction, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion, which facilitates readability. The inclusion of figures and tables, such as the cartographic representation of farms on page 5 and graphical presentations of input sources and distribution channels, enhances the clarity of the findings.

However, the manuscript would benefit from careful language and stylistic revision. There are several grammatical inconsistencies and typographical errors, particularly in the French text, which affect the overall clarity. Some sections contain long and complex sentences that could be simplified for better readability. Additionally, formatting inconsistencies in figures and captions should be addressed to ensure a more polished presentation..

Final Recommendation

Overall, the manuscript provides a valuable empirical contribution to the understanding of aquaculture systems in northern Senegal. It is particularly useful in documenting current practices and identifying key constraints within the sector. While the study would benefit from enhanced analytical depth, clearer methodological justification, and careful language revision, these issues are relatively minor and can be addressed through revision without substantial restructuring.

Decision: Accepted with minor revisions.