



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 57754

Title: Effets paradoxaux de la migration sur l'agriculture dans le Koutous (Niger).

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.

General Comments

The manuscript examines the paradoxical effects of migration on agriculture in the Koutous region of Niger. The topic is highly relevant in the Sahelian context where migration, food insecurity, labor shortages, and rural livelihoods are closely interconnected. The study provides valuable empirical insights into how migration simultaneously supports household survival through remittances while weakening agricultural productivity through labor loss.

The manuscript is scientifically interesting and contributes to migration-agriculture debates in the Sahel. The mixed-methods approach, field survey data, and integration of qualitative testimonies strengthen the study. However, the paper still requires moderate to minor revisions related to methodological clarification, statistical presentation, language editing, figure formatting, and strengthening of analytical interpretation.

Content and Originality

The study demonstrates good originality by focusing specifically on the Koutous region, which is relatively underexplored in migration and agricultural research. The analysis of the "paradoxical" relationship between migration and agriculture is meaningful and contributes to understanding rural transformation in Sahelian regions.

Strengths:

- Clear focus on migration-agriculture interactions.
- Strong regional relevance for Niger and the Sahel.
- Combination of labor dynamics, gender roles, remittances, and land underutilization.
- Inclusion of both positive and negative dimensions of migration.
- Use of empirical field evidence and local testimonies.

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Concerns:

1. The concept of "paradoxical effects" should be theoretically defined more clearly in the introduction.
2. The study could better distinguish between short-term and long-term migration impacts.
3. The manuscript sometimes emphasizes negative impacts more strongly than adaptive or resilience dimensions.
4. The contribution to migration theory and rural livelihood frameworks could be expanded.

Overall, the study offers meaningful empirical contribution with strong contextual relevance.

Technical Quality

The methodological framework is generally solid and combines quantitative household surveys with qualitative interviews and focus groups.

Positive aspects:

- Mixed-methods design is appropriate for the research objectives.
- Sample size of 373 households appears statistically adequate.
- Use of stratified random sampling improves representativeness.
- Cross-tabulations and correspondence analysis strengthen interpretation.
- Inclusion of chi-square significance tests improves analytical quality.

Minor concerns:

1. Methodological clarification:
 - The process of selecting the 10 study localities should be explained in greater detail.
 - More information is needed regarding questionnaire validation and pretesting.
2. Statistical presentation:
 - Some tables are overly dense and difficult to interpret.
 - Statistical indicators should be standardized across tables.
 - Confidence intervals are absent.
3. Quantitative interpretation:
 - Certain conclusions about productivity decline are based mainly on perception rather than direct agricultural yield measurements.
 - No econometric modeling is used despite discussing causal impacts.
4. Figures and images:
 - The photographs ("plages") are informative but require higher-quality captions and better integration into the discussion.
 - Figure numbering and formatting should be standardized.
5. Some percentages and interpretations require more cautious wording to avoid overgeneralization.

Despite these concerns, the technical quality is generally acceptable and stronger than many descriptive rural migration studies.

Language and Presentation

The manuscript is generally understandable and academically written, but language polishing is still necessary.

Strengths:

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- Scientific tone is mostly maintained.
- The discussion integrates literature appropriately.
- Local quotations enrich the narrative quality.

Concerns:

1. Several grammatical and typographical issues remain:
 - Missing spaces between words.
 - Inconsistent punctuation.
 - Occasional repetition of phrases.
2. Some sentences are excessively long and difficult to follow.
3. Examples:
 - “départdes migrants” should contain spacing.
 - “statut migratoiredes chefs” lacks spacing consistency.
 - “àlong terme” requires spacing correction.
4. Formatting inconsistencies appear in:
 - Table alignment,
 - Percentages,
 - Citation spacing,
 - Reference punctuation.

Professional French language editing is recommended before publication.

Structure and Organization

The manuscript follows a clear and logical structure:

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- References

Strengths:

- Results are organized into meaningful thematic subsections.
- Discussion appropriately compares findings with existing literature.
- The conclusion summarizes the major findings clearly.

Concerns:

1. Some result subsections are excessively detailed and could be condensed.
2. Certain qualitative quotations are too lengthy.
3. The transition between results and discussion could be smoother.
4. Some repetition exists between the results and discussion sections.

The manuscript would benefit from slight condensation and clearer thematic synthesis.

References and Citations

The manuscript includes a strong and relevant bibliography related to migration, agriculture, livelihoods, and Sahelian development.

Strengths:

- Good integration of recent literature (2021–2025).
- Use of regional and international references.
- Inclusion of FAO and peer-reviewed journal sources.

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- References are generally relevant to the topic.

Concerns:

1. Some references have formatting inconsistencies.
2. A few citations contain punctuation or spacing errors.
3. Certain references require standardization according to journal style guidelines.
4. Duplicate thematic references on migration productivity should be streamlined.

Overall, the literature review and references are adequate and support the study effectively.

Overall Recommendation

The manuscript addresses an important and timely issue concerning migration and agricultural sustainability in the Sahel. The study provides valuable empirical evidence from Niger and contributes to understanding how migration simultaneously supports household resilience while weakening agricultural labor systems.

The paper demonstrates good scientific potential, particularly through its mixed-methods approach and contextual depth. However, revisions are necessary to improve:

- Methodological clarity,
- Statistical presentation,
- Language quality,
- Structural conciseness,
- and analytical precision.

With these improvements, the manuscript could make a meaningful contribution to migration and rural development literature.

Final Decision

Minor Revision