

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 58675

Title: Enquête socio-sanitaire sur les sites de production de la moutarde africaine (soumbara) à FERKE en Côte d'Ivoire.

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision

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

Reviewer's ID: Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript titled "Enquête socio-sanitaire sur les sites de production de la moutarde africaine (soumbara) à FERKE en Côte d'Ivoire" presents an empirical evaluation of hygiene practices and environmental conditions across 150 *soumbara* production sites in the Ferkessédougou region of Côte d'Ivoire. Using a structured survey based on Codex Alimentarius principles and the "5M" methodology (Material, Method, Environment, Mindpower/Personnel, Raw Material), the authors highlight significant public health risks.

The empirical findings reveal severe sanitary shortcomings: 93% of processing sites lack wastewater management systems, discharging directly into the environment, and 80% lack basic sanitary facilities or handwashing protocols during product handling. Furthermore, high rates of pest infestation (100% flies, 60% cockroaches) and informal handling practices (e.g., handling money or touching body parts without handwashing) demonstrate a critical lack of Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) among processor women. The authors conclude that regulatory oversight and targeted hygiene training programs are urgently needed to mitigate foodborne illness risks. While the field data is robust, the paper requires key structural and methodological refinements prior to publication.

Detailed Suggestions for Improvement

1. Presentation of Results and Data Transparency

- **Statistical Nomenclature in Tables:** Ensure that statistical notation across all tables is clearly defined and consistent. For example, in Table I, clarify what superscript letters (\$a, b, c, e\$)

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denote, specifying the post-hoc test used (e.g., Duncan or Tukey) and indicating the significance threshold in the table caption.

- **Reconcile Discrepancies in Data Presentation:** Ensure full alignment between the narrative text and data tables. For example, line 103 states that cockroaches were present at 90% of sites, whereas Table II lists 60% (90 out of 150 sites). Similarly, verify handwashing percentage figures between Table V narrative descriptions and table values.
- **Clarify Methodology:** Provide greater detail on the statistical analysis section. Lines 80–84 describe ANOVA and post-hoc tests for microbiological parameters, but the presented data consists primarily of observational frequencies and categorical survey responses. Clarify if microbiological data was collected or align the description with frequency tests (e.g., Chi-square tests).

2. Discussion and Theoretical Contextualization

- **Expand Comparative Synthesis:** Deepen the discussion section by contextualizing findings with similar socio-sanitary surveys on traditional fermented condiments (e.g., *dawadawa*, *netetu*, or *irugba*) across West Africa.
- **Policy and Intervention Recommendations:** Expand the conclusion to provide actionable, low-cost intervention strategies tailored to informal, rural processing environments (e.g., community handwashing stations or localized training workshops).

3. Formatting, Language, and Reference Cleaning

- **Language Precision:** Translate and edit the manuscript into clean, academic English if required by the target journal, ensuring standard food safety and microbiological terminology.
- **Reference List Consistency:** Standardize all citations in the bibliography (*Références Bibliographiques*) into a single consistent format (e.g., APA 7th edition), ensuring all volume numbers, issue numbers, and page ranges are complete.

Recommendation for the Editor

- **Decision:** Accept with Minor Revisions
- **Justification:** The article addresses an important topic in food safety, informal sector economics, and public health in West Africa. The field dataset from 150 processing sites provides valuable field data. Resolving the minor textual-table numerical discrepancies, clarifying the statistical methodology, and standardizing the reference list will render the manuscript fully suitable for publication.