

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-58756**

Title: Strategies to increase food security in the European Union

Recommendation:

✓ Accept as it is **YES**.....
 Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer's ID: JPR- 159

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The document 'Strategies to increase food security in the European Union' is unique topic.

Recommendation : Accept as it is.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

- 1. Originality** – This paper examines strategies for strengthening European Union food security by reducing vulnerabilities in agricultural supply chains and enhancing systemic resilience.
- 2. Structure and Clarity** – The manuscript is generally well-structured with sections such as Introduction, Results, and Conclusion. However, transitions between sections can be improved, and paragraph alignment should be checked for consistency.
- 3. Strengths** –

Core Vulnerabilities: The EU faces structural dependencies on imported inputs—specifically seed material, breeding livestock, feed additives, and high-tech agricultural machinery. Disruptions from geopolitical conflicts (such as the Ukraine and Middle East crises) and economic shocks lead to price volatility and logistical bottlenecks.

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Import Substitution & Diversification: Boosting domestic agricultural production is critical, but true self-sufficiency requires establishing strategic foreign trade partnerships to diversify supply networks for items like fruits, vegetables, and dairy.

Short Supply Chains (SSCs): Supporting local production and short food-supply chains reduces physical distribution distances and eliminates unnecessary intermediaries. This improves transparency, traceability, and economic accessibility, particularly for rural areas.

Logistics & Regional Infrastructure: High transportation and logistics costs account for roughly half of final food prices. Addressing this requires modernizing transport hubs, upgrading storage facilities, and creating digital distribution centers to streamline distribution.

Food Clusters & Cooperation: Establishing regional food clusters brings together producers, processors, and logistics operators to lower transaction costs, speed up technology adoption, and ensure a balanced distribution of added value.

Digital Transformation: Expanding digital technologies and precision agriculture optimizes production efficiency, quality control, and logistics management to safeguard long-term food sovereignty.

4. Significance – The strategies outlined in this document are highly important for the European Union (EU) and global food systems for the following key reasons:

Reducing Import Dependency: Decreasing critical reliance on imported seeds, livestock breeding material, feed additives, and high-tech agricultural machinery strengthens national self-sufficiency and food sovereignty.

Mitigating Global Crises: Building systemic resilience ensures that food systems remain functional and stable during geopolitical conflicts, economic instability, trade disruptions, or climate shocks.

Controlling Food Prices & Inflation: Transportation and logistics account for up to half of final food costs. Implementing Short Supply Chains (SSCs) and digital distribution hubs cuts unnecessary intermediaries and logistics costs, keeping food affordable.

Supporting Rural Economies & Farmers: Promoting local production and regional food clusters ensures small-scale farmers receive a fair share of added value, creating jobs and strengthening rural economies.

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Ensuring Equitable Access: Modernizing regional transport networks and storage infrastructure reduces spatial disparities, ensuring vulnerable and rural populations have physical and economic access to fresh food.

In short, the study highlights that increasing gross agricultural output alone is insufficient; true food security requires structural resilience, technological independence, and efficient distribution across the entire supply chain.