

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58912

Title: PRODUCTION ET COMMERCIALISATION DU POISSON FERMENTE ADJUEVAN PROVENANT DE DEUX DEBARCADERES DE LA VILLE D'ABIDJAN (COTE 3 D'IVOIRE) : ASPECTS SOCIO-ECONOMIQUES.

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's ID: JPR-002

Detailed Reviewer's Report

- **The manuscript addresses a relevant socioeconomic and livelihood issue** by examining the production and marketing of Adjuévan fermented fish at the Vridi Zimbabwe and Biafra landing sites in Abidjan. The study provides useful information on the production process, marketing channels, profitability, and challenges faced by processors. The research objective is clearly stated and is relevant to artisanal fisheries and food security.
- **The introduction provides a reasonable background on artisanal fisheries and fermented fish products in West Africa.** The authors appropriately refer to previous studies from Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, and Senegal. However, the literature review should be strengthened by including more recent studies and by providing a more critical comparison of previous research. The research gap is identified, but it could be presented more explicitly to demonstrate the specific contribution of the present study.
- **The methodology is relevant to the objectives, particularly the field survey of actors in the Adjuévan value chain.** However, the manuscript should provide greater methodological detail concerning the sampling procedure, selection criteria, questionnaire design, number of respondents, data collection process, and statistical methods used for analysing the socioeconomic and profitability data. Such information is necessary to assess the reliability and reproducibility of the study.

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

- **The study provides useful information on the diversity of fish species and processing stages.** Twenty-four species were identified, and seven major processing stages—scaling, evisceration, washing, salting/brining, fermentation, drying, and packaging—are described. However, the results would be more informative if the authors provided comparative tables showing species distribution between the two sites and clearly explained the differences observed.
- **The socioeconomic analysis provides valuable information about the processors and their working conditions.** The study reports that 70 women were surveyed, with 60 at DVZ and 10 at DBT, and indicates very low levels of formal education among the respondents. However, the socioeconomic findings should be supported with appropriate descriptive statistics, percentages, tables, and clearer interpretation of how factors such as education, experience, household responsibilities, and access to finance influence participation in the activity.
- **The profitability analysis is an important component of the manuscript,** and the finding that profitability varies according to financial capacity and business size is useful. However, the calculation of profitability should be explained more clearly, including the formula used, treatment of fixed and variable costs, labour costs, transportation expenses, depreciation, and revenue. The authors should also provide average profitability indicators for each site or major fish species to enable meaningful comparison.
- **The analysis of marketing channels is relevant and provides practical value.** The manuscript indicates that the marketing system operates at local, national, and regional levels through processors, wholesalers, and retailers. However, the structure of the marketing chain should be presented more systematically, preferably through a flow diagram or table showing the movement of products, major actors, prices, and margins at each stage.
- **The discussion appropriately compares the findings with previous studies,** particularly regarding species diversity, processing practices, and the socioeconomic characteristics of processors. The comparison with studies from Fresco and other Abidjan landing sites is useful. Nevertheless, the discussion should go beyond confirming or contradicting earlier studies and provide deeper explanations for differences in species composition, profitability, marketing practices, and socioeconomic conditions.
- **The manuscript identifies important constraints affecting the sustainability of the activity,** including irregular availability of fresh fish, increasing raw-material prices, limited access to finance, informal working conditions, exposure to rain and sunlight, drying difficulties, and sanitation-related problems. These findings are significant, but the authors should provide more

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specific and practical recommendations concerning access to credit, improved drying facilities, sanitation, storage, cooperative organization, and sustainable fish-resource management.