ISSN: 2320-5407
International Journal of Advanced Research
Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP
www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59072

Title: ***Socio-Territorial Performance of the Kankelen Market Gardeners Union and the NERICA Union in Faranah Prefecture, Republic of Guinea.***

Recommendation:
Accept as it is .....
Accept after Major revision.....
Accept after Minor revision
Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: **Dr. ANAPANA GOPAL**

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

General Comments

The manuscript evaluates the socio-territorial performance of agricultural holdings belonging to the KANKELEN Market Gardeners' Union (UGMK) and the NERICA Union in Faranah Prefecture, Guinea, using an adapted IDEA (Indicators of Farm Sustainability) methodology. The study assesses human development, production management, employment, and local development indicators among market-gardening and rice-farming groups.

The topic is relevant to sustainable agricultural development, farmer organizations, and rural territorial governance in Guinea. The attempt to evaluate agricultural organizations through socio-territorial indicators rather than purely economic measures is a notable strength. However, the manuscript requires substantial revision in terms of methodology, statistical rigor, presentation, language quality, and interpretation of results.

The paper contains useful field data but currently reads more as a project evaluation report than a rigorously developed scientific article.

Content and Originality

The study addresses an important issue: assessing the socio-territorial performance of agricultural unions and their contribution to local development. The focus on farmer organizations in Guinea is valuable because relatively few studies have examined socio-territorial performance using structured sustainability indicators.

However, the manuscript should better explain:

- What is scientifically novel about the study.
- How the adapted IDEA approach differs from previous applications.
- Why UGMK and NERICA were selected.
- How the study contributes to the literature on agricultural sustainability and farmer organizations.

The manuscript currently emphasizes evaluation but does not sufficiently explain its contribution to broader scientific knowledge.

ISSN: 2320-5407
International Journal of Advanced Research
Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP
www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Strengths

- Relevant topic for sustainable agriculture.
- Focus on farmer organizations and territorial development.
- Use of a multidimensional evaluation framework.

Weaknesses

- Limited discussion of originality.
- Research gap is not clearly identified.
- Scientific contribution remains insufficiently articulated.

Technical Quality

The technical quality of the manuscript is currently the main concern.

Methodological Issues

The authors report evaluating:

- 10 market-gardening groups,
- 9 rice-farming groups,
- 495 members (320 women and 175 men).

However, later the methodology indicates a representative sample of:

- 53 members from the NERICA Union,
- 91 members from the UGMK,
- total sample = 144 members.

This creates a Minor inconsistency.

The manuscript should clearly explain:

1. Whether 495 members represent the population and 144 the sample.
2. How respondents were selected.
3. Whether random sampling was employed.
4. How many respondents belonged to each group.

Sampling Formula

The sample-size formula is referenced but not fully presented.

The authors should:

- Present the complete formula.
- Define every parameter.
- Show calculations.
- Explain assumptions used in sample-size determination.

Indicator Construction

The socio-territorial performance model contains:

- 3 components,
- 19 indicators,
- multiple weighted scoring systems.

However, the justification for weighting is missing.

The manuscript should explain:

- Why specific indicators received certain scores.
- Whether weights were validated.
- Whether sensitivity analysis was performed.
- Whether the scoring system was adapted from a validated IDEA framework.

Statistical Analysis

The manuscript reports percentages and scores but provides limited statistical analysis.

The authors should consider:

ISSN: 2320-5407
International Journal of Advanced Research
Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP
www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

- Means and standard deviations.
- Confidence intervals.
- Comparative statistical tests between unions.
- Cluster validation measures for the hierarchical classification.
- Reliability testing of indicators.

The hierarchical classification is discussed using Euclidean distances, but the clustering methodology is insufficiently described.

Language and Presentation

The manuscript requires extensive English-language editing.
Numerous issues were identified:

Examples

- Inconsistent capitalization.
- Repetition of indicator descriptions.
- Formatting errors.
- Mixed French and English text within tables.
- Incomplete sentences.
- Translation-related awkward phrasing.

Examples include:

- "You are trained on data up to October 2023" appearing inside Table 1, which is clearly an editing error.
- Repeated scoring descriptions.
- Mixed terminology regarding performance dimensions.

Recommendations

- Conduct professional English editing.
- Standardize terminology.
- Remove translation artifacts.
- Ensure consistency throughout the manuscript.

Structure and Organization

The manuscript follows a conventional structure:

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results and Discussion

However, organization can be improved considerably.

Abstract

The abstract provides objectives and Minor findings but should include:

- sample size clarification,
- methodology summary,
- statistical methods,
- principal implications.

Introduction

The Introduction discusses:

- food security,
- sustainability,
- organizational performance,
- agricultural development.

ISSN: 2320-5407
International Journal of Advanced Research
Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP
www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

However:

- The research gap is unclear.
- Theoretical justification is weak.
- Objectives should be stated more explicitly.

Methods

The methodology requires substantial expansion:

- sampling procedures,
- data collection instruments,
- indicator validation,
- scoring procedures,
- statistical methods.

Results and Discussion

The Results section largely describes figures and scores.
The Discussion should:

- compare findings with previous studies,
- explain observed differences,
- discuss policy implications,
- acknowledge limitations.

Currently, interpretation remains relatively descriptive.

References and Citations

The manuscript cites several relevant sources related to:

- sustainability,
- agroecology,
- agricultural performance,
- organizational evaluation.

However, improvements are needed.

Issues

1. Several references appear outdated.
2. More recent literature on:
    - socio-territorial performance,
    - farmer organizations,
    - sustainability assessment,
    - agricultural cooperatives

    should be incorporated.
3. Reference formatting should be standardized.
4. All citations should be checked for consistency.

The manuscript would benefit from additional international literature to strengthen its theoretical framework.

Minor Issues Requiring Revision

Methodological

1. Clarify the discrepancy between 495 members and 144 sampled respondents.
2. Fully describe the sampling procedure.
3. Present the complete sample-size calculation.
4. Explain indicator weighting and scoring.
5. Describe data-collection tools.
6. Explain validation of the adapted IDEA framework.

ISSN: 2320-5407
International Journal of Advanced Research
Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP
www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Analytical

7. Strengthen statistical analysis.
8. Provide measures of variability.
9. Justify hierarchical clustering procedures.
10. Compare UGMK and NERICA statistically.

Presentation

11. Improve figure quality.
12. Clarify all tables.
13. Remove duplicated content.
14. Correct formatting errors.
15. Improve English throughout the manuscript.

Interpretation

16. Better connect results to existing literature.
17. Discuss study limitations.
18. Avoid overly general conclusions not directly supported by data.

Overall Recommendation

The manuscript addresses an important topic and contains potentially valuable information regarding the socio-territorial performance of agricultural unions in Guinea. The multidimensional assessment approach and focus on farmer organizations are commendable.

However, significant revisions are required before the study can be considered for publication. The most important concerns involve methodological transparency, sample-size inconsistencies, indicator validation, statistical analysis, and language quality. The manuscript should also strengthen its scientific contribution and improve discussion of findings within the context of existing literature.

Final Decision:
MINOR REVISION