

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59077

Title: Farmers' perspectives on intensive rice cultivation a participatory diagnosis of practices, constraints, and co-constructed solutions in the middle Senegal River Valley,

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

This manuscript presents a participatory diagnosis of farming practices, constraints, and co-constructed solutions for irrigated rice systems in the middle Senegal River Valley (SRV). Combining participatory workshops across six villages with individual surveys of 60 producers, the study identifies critical bottlenecks to rice self-sufficiency, including aging infrastructure, poor land leveling, high irrigation costs, weed pressure, and declining soil fertility. The integration of farmer knowledge with agronomic solutions—such as motor-pump optimization, targeted fertilizer management, and improved water depth control—provides valuable empirical insights into West African smallholder agricultural systems.

Suggested Improvements

- Clarify Sample Size and Methodology:** The survey relies on a total sample size of 60 farmers (split into two groups of 30) selected via purposive sampling. The manuscript should elaborate on how representative this small sample is relative to the broader population of the six selected villages.
- Reconcile Workshop Participant Counts:** Section 1.2.1 states that co-construction workshops were conducted with 23 rice farmers, yet Table 1 and Table 2 report response proportions among "farmers reporting" or "farmers proposing" as high as 100% or 91%. Clarify the exact denominator used for percentages in Tables 1, 2, and 3.
- Address Visual and Formatting Artifacts:** Remove the prominent draft watermarks ("UNDER PEER REVIEW IN IJAR") running diagonally across pages 4, 8, 9, 10, 13, and 18. Furthermore,

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

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correct the typo in Table 1 under the pest row where the text label "JANUAR" appears out of context.

4. **Clean Up Figure References and Data Labels:** Ensure all figures (such as Figure 1's French caption/map labels and Figure 5's site names) are formatted consistently in English.

Accept with Minor Revision

Dear Editor,

I recommend accepting the manuscript "**Farmers' perspectives on intensive rice cultivation: a participatory diagnosis of practices, constraints, and co-constructed solutions in the middle Senegal River Valley**" subject to minor revisions. The study addresses a critical regional challenge—closing Senegal's rice production deficit—through an engaging participatory framework. The empirical data on input application rates, water management practices, and irrigation infrastructure limitations are well-grounded and supported by relevant literature.

Once the authors clarify the sampling structure, resolve the minor table label formatting errors, and clean up the watermark overlay artifacts, the manuscript will be a valuable addition to the journal.