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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59810

Manuscript Title: Dynamique et perception paysanne du phÃ©nomÃ¨ne des transactions fonciÃ¨res dans le dÃ©partement de Madarounfa (Niger)

Recommendation:
Accept after minor revision

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Repot

General Overview

The academic article titled "Dynamique et perception paysanne du phénomène des transactions foncières dans le département de Madarounfa (Niger)" ("Dynamics and farmers' perception of the phenomenon of land transactions in the Department of Madarounfa (Niger)") investigates the socioeconomic drivers, local perceptions, and structural impacts of accelerating rural land sales and pledging (*gage*) in southern Niger. Using a mixed-methods approach across five localities (Dama, Kabobi, Kodéraoua, Kountoumi, and Maya Oukou)—combining semi-structured interviews with village chiefs and local land commission officials (COFOB, COFOCOM, COFODEP) and a quantitative KoboCollect survey of 335 household heads—the study examines how distress sales driven by food shortages, medical expenses, and social obligations are eroding customary tenure and fueling landlessness.

A notable strength of the manuscript is its well-structured empirical demonstration of the "distress-sale vulnerability trap" in a spatially saturated Sahelian border zone. By pairing socio-land profiling (household size, farm dispersion, farm size by age cohort, and modes of land access) with perceptual and driver analysis, the authors clearly show how short-term liquidity needs—such as purchasing food supplies (63.9%) and covering healthcare costs (56.7%)—force smallholder farmers to liquidate their primary productive asset, leading to chronic food insecurity (69.97%), landlessness (55.63%), and fatal agropastoral and intrafamilial conflicts.

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However, to meet the standards required for final academic publication, the manuscript requires several minor revisions to reconcile numerical discrepancies, fix figure and table labeling, and standardize the bibliography:

- **Numerical and Textual Consistency:** In the Résumé and Abstract (page 1–2) as well as Section 2.2.1 (page 14), the proportion of respondents citing food purchases (*achat de vivres*) is listed as **63,6%** in the abstracts but **63,9%** in Table 1 and the body text. Similarly, in Figure 9 (page 16), the bar chart displays **53.58%** for *"Mauvaise"*, whereas the body text on the same page and the abstracts state **52,56%**. Additionally, in Section 1.1 (page 4), the study area's coordinates state *"entre $6^{\circ}44^{\prime}$ et $7^{\circ}36^{\circ}$ de longitude nord"* instead of *"longitude est"*, and the map in Figure 1 bears a future/placeholder creation date (*"15/10/2026"*).
- **Figure Labels, Table Numbering, and Visual Layout:** In Section 2.2.1 (page 13), the introductory text refers to *"Le tableau 2"* directly above *"Tableau 1: Facteurs de transactions foncières"*, while *"Tableau 2"* appears later on page 18. Several figures also contain minor typographical errors in axis titles and labels—such as *"Pourcentgae"* on the y-axis of Figure 8 (page 13), *"Actvités secondaires"* in Figure 3 (page 6), *"Départements imitrophes"* in Figure 1 (page 4), and a missing caption for Figure 3 on page 6. Moreover, all figures (Figures 1–10) have duplicated raw text blocks extracted underneath the embedded images that should be removed.
- **Citation and Bibliography Verification:** Five works cited in the text—*Adam Elh Saidi (2016)*, *Touré (2003)*, *Sadda (2014)*, *Oumarou Sanna et al. (2025)*, and *Barmo et al.* / *Lawali et al.* cross-checks—are missing from the *Références bibliographiques* section (with *Adam Elh Saidi*, *Touré*, *Sadda*, and *Oumarou Sanna et al.* completely absent), while *Abdou Bagna (2016)*, *Gavian & Fafchamps (1996)*, *Lawali (2011)*, and *Matthew & Oumarou (2018)* appear in the bibliography without being cited in the text. Several bibliography entries also omit journal names (e.g., *Ahomadikpohou, 2026*; *Ali et al., 2025*; *Gavian & Fafchamps, 1996*; *Lawali et al., 2014*; *Matthew & Oumarou, 2018*; *Paraiso Cecil et al., 2025*) and contain malformed double DOI prefixes (*"https://doi.org/https://doi.org/..."*).

Addressing these minor numerical discrepancies, figure annotations, and bibliographic omissions will ensure the manuscript stands as a rigorous and polished contribution to Sahelian land-tenure scholarship.

ACCEPTED WITH MINOR REVISION