

Review of: "Exploring the Link between Climate Change and Farming in Rural and Peri-Urban Communities in Sierra Leone"

Maurizio Bacci¹

¹ Italian National Research Council

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Authors,

I have reviewed the manuscript, and I find it unsuitable for publication as a scientific paper for the following reasons:

The introduction section is a collection of general statements about climate change, without establishing any clear connection to the specific context of Sierra Leone.

The approach resembles more of a report than a scientific paper, as it primarily lists survey results without comparing them to actual field data.

The most critical issue I see is related to the time span of the investigated period—just the last 10 years. This period is insufficient to capture climate change trends, and instead, it only reflects extreme weather events.

Furthermore, the absence of field data on yield production and livestock breeding to corroborate farmers' perceptions weakens the validity of some conclusions. Without this data, the statements remain largely subjective and unsupported by concrete evidence.

Finally, the quality of the maps and graphs is not adequate for a scientific publication.

Figure 1: The legend has flaws, and the overall map quality is low.

Figure 2: The average yearly temperature graph does not provide enough information to assess crop and livestock stress. Including minimum and maximum temperature distributions is recommended.

Figure 3: It is unclear how negative percentages are possible, and the black symbols seem to indicate confidence levels, but this needs clearer explanation.

Figure 4: Similar issues arise as with Figure 3.

Figure 5: The x-axis is unreadable.

Figures 6 to 12: These could be better represented in a clearer table format.

I recommend reconsidering the focus of the paper, perhaps as a study of farmers' responses to climate stress in Sierra Leone. This could include a comparison of survey responses with on-the-ground data from the national meteorological observation network and relevant surveys from the Ministry of Agriculture.

