

Review of: "Palm Oil Expansion and Subnational Food Security"

Mohammad Reza Asgharipour

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article investigates the relationship between oil palm expansion and food security status at the provincial level in Indonesia. The author used data from a food security vulnerability map and a measure of oil palm cultivation, along with other control variables, to analyze the impact of oil palm expansion on food security status. The author found that oil palm expansion has a negative effect on food security status, but also that food security status is a positive predictor of oil palm cultivation. The author concluded that oil palm expansion should be done with caution and consideration of its social, cultural, and economic implications.

This article has some strengths and weaknesses. Some of the strengths are:

- The topic of the article is relevant and important for understanding the trade-offs and synergies between agricultural development and food security in Indonesia, as oil palm is a major commodity that has environmental and social impacts.
- The author provided a clear and concise abstract that summarizes the main purpose, method, results, and conclusion of the article.
- The author reviewed the literature on oil palm expansion, food security, and their linkages, and identified the research gap and objectives.
- The author used appropriate data sources, variables, and methods to answer the research questions and test the hypotheses.
- The author discussed the results in relation to the literature, explained the implications of the findings for policy and practice, and acknowledged the limitations and suggestions for future research.

Some of the weaknesses are:

- The title of the article is too general and does not specify the country, level of analysis, or method of measuring food security. It would be better if the title was more specific and informative, such as "The impact of oil palm expansion on provincial food security status in Indonesia using a vulnerability map approach".
- The introduction section is too long and contains some unnecessary details, such as the history of oil palm development, the definition of food security dimensions, and the description of biodiesel policy. It would be better if the introduction section was more focused on the main problem, purpose, and contribution of the study.

- The method section is too short and lacks some important information, such as the sampling frame, sample size determination, data collection procedures, data analysis techniques, model specification, variable definition, and descriptive statistics. It would be better if the method section was more detailed and transparent to allow replication and verification of the study.
- The results section is too descriptive and does not provide enough interpretation and explanation of the findings. It would be better if the results section was more analytical and discussed the meaning, significance, and implications of the results for each hypothesis and research question.
- The article has some grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors that indicate a lack of proofreading and editing by the author. For example, in the abstract, "food expenditure has an unequivocally negative impact on food security status" should be "food expenditure has an unequivocally positive impact on food security status". Or in the introduction section, "The research utilized data from a food security vulnerability map" should be "The research used data from a food security vulnerability map". It would be better if the author revised the article several times and used professional editing services.