

Review of: "Rush Farming of Konjac (*Amorphophallus Muelleri*) Among Novice Farmers In West Java, Indonesia: A Descriptive Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Rush Farming of Konjac (*Amorphophallus Muelleri*) Among Novice Farmers In West Java, Indonesia: A Descriptive Study

Introduction:

The introduction provides a comprehensive overview of the background, significance, and context of the study. However, there are several areas that could be improved for clarity and effectiveness.

Clarity of Objectives: While the introduction outlines the significance of the study and the interest in konjac cultivation, the specific objectives or research questions of the study should be clearly stated. What are the main questions the research aims to answer? This will provide a focused direction for the reader.

Background Information: While the introduction provides information about konjac's glucomannan content and its popularity among novice farmers, more background information could be included to highlight the historical, cultural, or economic context of konjac cultivation. This could enhance the reader's understanding of why konjac has gained such attention.

Literature Review Gap: The introduction mentions the lack of information on the farming models practiced by novice konjac farmers. However, this gap in the literature could be further emphasized. Clearly state why the existing literature falls short in addressing this specific aspect and how your study aims to fill that gap.

Citations: Some of the statements, such as the success of farmers in the konjac business and the interest of farmers, could benefit from citations to back up the claims and lend more credibility to the information provided.

Theoretical Framework Review:

The theoretical framework is well-presented, providing a foundation for the study's approach. However, there are areas that could be improved:

Connection to Study: It's important to explicitly connect the theoretical framework to the study's focus. How do the theories of perception and phenomenon relate to the investigation of novice konjac farmers' behavior and their expectations of

profit?

Integration with Research Objectives: Relate the chosen theoretical perspectives to the specific objectives of the study. How will the theories of perception and phenomenon aid in understanding the factors that influence novice farmers' decisions to pursue konjac cultivation and their profit expectations?

Elaboration on Triangulation: The triangulation method is mentioned briefly, but it would be beneficial to elaborate on how this method will be applied in the study. How will the convergence, complementarity, and dissonance principles be operationalized in the research design and data analysis?

Consider the Audience: Remember that your audience may not be familiar with konjac cultivation or the specific context. Provide sufficient background information to engage readers who are not experts in the field.

Language and Grammar: Proofread the text for any language or grammatical errors that might affect the clarity and professionalism of the writing.

Data Collection:

The timeframe for data collection is specified as two months (May to June 2021). However, no rationale is provided for the selection of this timeframe. The authors should clarify why these months were chosen and if there were any seasonal factors affecting the data.

The "triangular approach" is mentioned but not adequately explained. The authors should provide a concise description of what this approach entails and why it is suitable for capturing the konjac planting phenomenon.

The method of selecting respondents is not mentioned. It would be helpful to detail how the 37 farmers were chosen and whether any criteria were applied for their selection.

The process of questionnaire preparation should be described more thoroughly, including how the questions were developed and validated.

Data Analysis:

The section describing the analysis of data lacks clarity. The authors mention "descriptive analysis" but do not elaborate on the specific techniques used. Providing more details about how the qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed would enhance the rigor of the study.

Calculation and Formulas:

Equations (1), (2), and (3) are presented without proper context. The authors should explain these equations in more detail and provide a step-by-step breakdown of how they were applied to calculate the commercial value, efficiency, and profitability of konjac farming.

The formulas' variables (TR, TC, Y, Py) need to be defined clearly within the main text or in a separate notation/key

section for easy reference.

Ethical Considerations:

The article does not mention ethical considerations, such as obtaining informed consent from the interviewed farmers or ethical review by an institutional review board. Clarifying the ethical aspects of the study is essential.

Results and Discussion:

When discussing the motivation for konjac cultivation, consider integrating more direct quotes or anecdotes from the surveyed farmers to add depth and authenticity to the findings.

The discussion on the response of the local government could be expanded. How has the government's involvement impacted konjac farming? Are there any challenges or gaps in their support?

Consider elaborating on the socioeconomic and environmental implications of the increased konjac cultivation, both positive and negative. This would provide a well-rounded understanding of the phenomenon.

Conclusion:

The conclusions section lacks a clear and concise structure, which makes it challenging for readers to follow the main points. Consider breaking down the content into smaller paragraphs, each focusing on a specific aspect of the findings. This will improve readability and help readers understand the conclusions more effectively.

Supporting Evidence:

The conclusions are supported primarily by general statements and assumptions. To strengthen your arguments, it's crucial to provide specific examples, statistics, or case studies that demonstrate the points you're making. Including real-world data can make your conclusions more credible and compelling.

Causation vs. Correlation:

While the article highlights factors that trigger the rush of konjac farming, it's important to differentiate between causation and correlation. For instance, you mentioned that "novice farmers more aware of the financial benefits of konjac farming than of the related risks." To establish a causal relationship, you should provide evidence or research that directly links farmers' awareness to their actions.

Impact Assessment:

The positive impact of konjac cultivation on rural economic growth is discussed, but the article could benefit from a more in-depth analysis of this impact. Providing specific data on the increase in income, job creation, and overall economic changes within the community would enhance the validity of your claims.

Mitigating Negative Impacts:

While the potential positive impacts are highlighted, the article briefly mentions the possible scarcity of other agricultural products due to the replacement of crops with konjac. This point deserves more attention, including potential strategies to mitigate this impact and maintain agricultural diversity in the region.

Development Methods:

The suggestion to develop konjac using two methods is interesting, but it lacks detailed information on the benefits and challenges associated with each method. Providing a more comprehensive analysis of the pros and cons of shade vs. non-shade cultivation for different types of farmers will add depth to your conclusions.

Profitable Characteristics:

The article briefly mentions the characteristics of crops that make rush farming reasonable for farmers. Expanding on these characteristics and explaining how konjac aligns with them will strengthen your argument and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the topic.

Balanced Analysis:

Provide a more balanced discussion by addressing potential limitations of the study. For example, consider discussing the potential biases introduced by relying on self-reported motivations from farmers.

Language and Clarity:

The article contains several grammatical and typographical errors that need to be corrected for clarity and professionalism.