

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

ID	Comments/Observations from the Reviewer
	<b>Title of the study: Palm Oil Expansion and Subnational Food Security</b>
A	Title: Indicate the country/place of study
B	<p>Abstract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Mention the four dimensions of food security.</li> <li>ii. Please indicate the methodology and model used.</li> </ul>
C	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Pages 1/26 to 2/26, paragraphs 1-8: Please acknowledge other authors by indicating references.</li> <li>ii. Page 2, first paragraph; This sentence is hanging, please link it well with the paragraph below which starts with ....(i) Ensuring...</li> <li>iii. Arrange your paragraph so that they are consistent. For example, some paragraphs on food security are split apart.</li> <li>iv. You split this part of the introduction into subsections. For Example (1) Background information (2) a Brief overview of the Palm Oil Industry (3) Food Security (4) a Literature review and if applicable (A theoretical and Empirical review ).</li> <li>v. References have not been adequately provided. You mention reports and other policy documents which I suggest you give their references.</li> <li>vi. Also be focused in the introduction. The issue at hand is about Food Security and the Palm Oil industry. While some information is important ie forests and forest fires, in discussing their relation to the 2, however, that should be limited.</li> <li>vii. Objectives of the study be clearly indicated.</li> <li>viii. Justification, the significance of the study and policy implications should appear as the last statements in the introduction section</li> <li>ix. All acronyms must first be fully abbreviated before using them in the text.</li> </ul>
D	<p>Research Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Page 8/26, paragraph 2 line 5: In the parentheses should read as indicating severe food insecurity.</li> <li>ii. Please mention and briefly discuss the mixed research design, including its merit over others.</li> <li>iii. Indicate the reasons for using the logit model over other available models of similar nature.</li> <li>iv. Indicate also the name of the provinces in the food security status (1-2; 3-4), in relation to binary 0,1.</li> <li>v. You have indicated different dimensions of food security at different levels. Would please indicate which of the dimensions and the levels you used in the study?</li> <li>vi. I guess the dimensions of food security described are the definitions of the same. If so, how did you convert these dimensions into binary dependent variables (Y) as indicated? Or else explain how you collapsed the 4 dimensions into the 0,1 scenario?</li> <li>vii. Briefly explain/describe the economic theoretical relationship between the dependent variable (Y; 0,1) and the independent variables.</li> <li>viii. What are the possible reasons for such skewness? Since the dependent variable is skewed, I suggest you use skewed logit or Scobit and not logit (see Jonathan Nagler, Scobit: An Alternative Estimator to Logit and Probit, 1994, American Journal of Political Science, 38 (1): 230-255).</li> <li>ix. What is the meaning of categories 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the food security situation of the provinces?</li> </ul>
	<p>Results and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. I would have loved it if you start your results section with descriptive statistics, before other Tables of results, and also indicate below each caption the source of information.</li> <li>ii. check on my earlier comment in the Research Methodology section on the appropriate model when the probability of success is <math>0 &lt; 0.3 &lt; 0.5</math></li> <li>iii. Explain the reasons for testing collinearity, or else what would happen if collinearity was present? If you one does not want to explain the reasons for</li> </ul>

	<p>the testing of collinearity, at least give a reference on collinearity.</p> <p>iv. Please discuss the results based on a prior expectation (refer to my earlier comment, (vii), in the Research Methodology section above), and the existing empirical evidence, by indicating whether your findings are consistent/not consistent with theory/empirical evidence. If not consistent, explain with reference to contextual situation and/or any other information that you have given in the text.</p> <p>v. The results section should focus mainly on the findings of the study, i.e. how do the independent variables explain the dependent variable? Spend some time explaining the association of the two. However, what I have noted is that you are succinctly explaining some diagnostic tests more than the findings themselves. The tests should be summarized and presented first before the findings.</p> <p>vi. Present results of the association of an independent variable to a dependent variable one at a time, and proceed to discuss the findings of that results, directly referring to the Table of results.</p> <p>vii. Have you discussed anywhere in the text the characteristics of the provinces to warrant the presentation of the differences in their odds of palm oil production? Explain the importance of such results in understanding the food security statuses of the provinces.</p>
E	<p>viii. For one to easily follow your presentation of results, a discussion of the results and an explanation of your findings at the beginning of the results section, indicate the order in which different categories of your result of the analysis will be presented. Otherwise, the presentation of the results is mixed and difficult to follow.</p> <p>ix. Also number every equation used sequentially from the Research Methodology to the Results and Discussion Sections, if any.</p> <p>x. Provide reference to the theoretical explanation of the findings of the negative influence of food expenditure on food security.</p> <p>xi. The explanation in (x) is not satisfying, I expect the opposite to be true.</p> <p>xii. Explain how healthcare and education are associated with food security in the context that you have presented?</p> <p>xiii. On the association of mileage and food security, please support such findings and explanations with either empirical evidence or contextual situation. That's why I earlier indicated the need for the discussion of a prior expectation of the variables to the dependent variables.</p> <p>xiv. Please provide a plausible explanation of the findings of the relationship between food security and the cultivation of oil palm.</p> <p>xv. Please indicate the nature/type of development you are referring to in Western Indonesia.</p> <p>xvi. Also provide an explanation of the negative association between oil palm cultivation and GDP, otherwise one would expect that the former contributes to the latter.</p> <p>xvii. The paragraph discusses the association between rice production and food security, but you are discussing other issues not related to the former and the latter, please be focused and consistent.</p> <p>xviii. Is this development about food security?</p> <p>xix. You have already discussed issues on mobile phones, food security etc, so why repeat them here, also make sure to exhaust the discussion of one issue before jumping to another.</p>
	<p>Conclusion and Policy Recommendations</p> <p>i. This conclusion is too short. A good conclusion should summarize the key findings of the study.</p> <p>ii. The second sentence and subsequent ones of the first paragraph of the conclusion section should have made a good introduction of the conclusion section.</p>
F	<p>iii. From the presentation of the Research and Methodology section, you have indicated that the variables used are at a macro/meso level. However, your conclusion seems to me that the findings are based at a micro level. However, an increase in both GDP, Total area cultivated with palm oil could obviously have positive impacts on food security at the macro level.</p> <p>iv. In the policy recommendations do not present new information that would you need to provide references. Base your recommendations on the findings of the study. What is the implication to a policy of the outcome (negative/positive) of the variables that you used in the study? For example, if the cultivation of palm oil negatively impacts food security, what strategies should be put in place to improve food security.....etc etc..</p>