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.

Second review manuscript Qeios ID: qeios-PBYIOW

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

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I did not receive any thank you note for my first review, so I decided to write the second review, albeit slightly different.

The paper is a detailed study of the growing trend of konjac (a type of plant) farming in Jelegong, a district in West Java, Indonesia. The researchers interviewed 37 local novice farmers to understand the reasons behind this sudden interest in konjac farming.

Two significant reasons were identified; first, the farmers were not adequately informed about how to farm various crops and their market demands, and secondly, they were attracted to konjac farming due to the possibility of additional income, causing an influx of new investors and attention from the government.

The study also drew attention to the issue of konjac farming potentially threatening the supply of other crops in the district, as farmers were replacing them with konjac crops on the same farmland. Furthermore, the choice of farming method varied based on the farmer's finances and resources; less wealthy farmers tended to opt for non-shaded konjac farming which requires fewer resources, while richer farmers and industries preferred shaded farming requiring high maintenance. However, to solidify the literature study, the authors should consider including some references related to pranata mangsa in the context of sustainable agriculture, such as https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/15/9632 and https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.13893.

The paper concludes by advising the local government to produce a crop suitability map for the region that would provide farmers with much-needed information on various types of crops, helping them make better farming decisions.

In another section, the paper also provides information about the demographics and farming experiences of the konjac

farmers. It reveals details about the acquisition and farming methods of konjac tubers and the decision factors and support mechanisms behind konjac cultivation. The local government's support for konjac farming is also highlighted, along with the farming conditions, cost factors, and stakeholder involvement in the process.

Finally, the paper studied the cultivation of konjac under shaded and non-shaded conditions. The findings favor the shaded method due to its higher yield and quality of konjac plants. The authors draw attention to the need for proper cultivation management due to market demand changes and discuss the economic impacts of konjac farming on the local economy. The paper also suggests different cultivation methods suitable for high-capital and low-capital farmers and concludes with recommendations for mapping agricultural commodities for sustainable development.