

Review of: "Sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems in developing economies: A conceptualisation of complex adaptive systems approach"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Congratulations on the development of your research, and thank you for the invitation to review and have the opportunity to read the article firsthand.

In your introduction, there is room for improvement. Specifically, in the Introduction section, it is advisable to clarify your research gap and provide a more contextualized background. I recommend that the authors include additional references to substantiate the motivation for the study. Some sections throughout the text, where the author discusses various gaps, should be reorganized to integrate into this section. It is not advisable to have gaps scattered throughout the results section.

Literature Review: Your literature review could benefit from incorporating more recent articles on the themes of entrepreneurial ecosystems. Key authors in the fields of Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS) and Ecosystems have not been cited, such as:

- Phillips, M. A., & Ritala, P. (2019). A complex adaptive systems agenda for ecosystem research methodology. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 148.
- Kay, J. J., Regier, H. A., Boyle, M., & Francis, G. (1999). An ecosystem approach for sustainability: addressing the challenge of complexity. In *Futures* (Vol. 31).
- Adner, R. (2016). Ecosystem as Structure: An Actionable Construct for Strategy. *Journal of Management*, 43(1), 39–58.
- Markova, V. D., & Kuznetsova, S. A. (2018). Ecosystems as Network Forms of Business Organization. 2018 14th International Scientific-Technical Conference on Actual Problems of Electronic Instrument Engineering, APEIE 2018 - Proceedings, 418–421.

Therefore, authors are advised to engage with more relevant papers and include them in this manuscript to clarify the novelty of this study.

Results: In section 3.1.1, the author states: "Rural areas are typically environmentally and demographically unsustainable." This is a strong statement that requires more detailed justification of the argumentative point. Merely citing a source is insufficient; an explanation is needed to support this claim.

Discussion: I do not perceive your conceptual framework as a guide for empirical research. It appears more akin to a theoretical review and advancement rather than a guide for investigating an ecosystem. I suggest rethinking and



reformulating this approach.