

Review of: "Land Size Class Wise Growth of Crop Diversification Index: A Case Study From Murshidabad District of West Bengal"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The issue of the paper is very relevant and important. Authors have made a good attempt to provide the scenarios of cropping patterns in two different periods, selecting a district of West Bengal, India. However, the paper lacks proper dealing with the rationale of the paper and research gaps: a link of the existing theories/concepts to a particular case. Likewise, there is no text explaining why the authors selected the present district as their study area.

Similarly, the paper also lacks data on the characteristics of the cropping areas. Based on the characteristics of cropping land, some areas might have the potential for diversification and some might not. For example, the facilities of irrigation, soil fertility, pH, or slope, and other land characteristics may affect the diversification of crops in an area. The question arises whether all the cropping lands of the area exhibit similar land characteristics. Similarly, social factors may have impacts on diversification as well. These issues are missing from the paper. The size of the cropping land may not always be enough to compare on such sensitive issues.

Another point on the analysis is that it has attempted to point out results in detail which are shown in the table. Reading through the paper, I was very anxious to see the answers to WHY and HOW rather than WHAT, which are available on the table. Finally, I believe the conclusions should be broad generalizations on the basis of a particular study, opposite of the research gaps (which are your innovations on the fund of existing knowledge). I hope the authors will agree with my opinions, and I look forward to seeing positive impacts.