

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

Ary Widiyanto

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Exciting paper. Please check my comments below:

Page 1, Line 2: What does importance mean? Value? Contribution to GDP? If possible, add some literature here.

Page 2 Paragraph 2: If possible, update with the newest data available

Last paragraph in the intro section: You do not tell the research objective (s) clearly

The introduction section is too long. You mention so many things, but some of them are not related directly to the research problem. You can reduce it.

Methodology

It is better to put all of the variables in this section. You didn't mention, for example, mobile phone ownership.

Result and discussion

Some of your findings must be explained clearly and gives the province as examples: 1) being a food-secure province increases the odds of the province being a grower of oil palm, 2) provinces with a high regional GDP do not engage in oil palm cultivation, 3) provinces that engage in oil palm cultivation are associated with lower levels of food security and regional gross domestic product.

Some of your findings might not be entirely right if we are talking nationally; this is "what statistics tell". There are some exceptions that you should consider and be aware of. In this section, you could explain more. Also, you can add some relevant kinds of literature in this section.

You mention, "The cultivation of palm oil takes place on land that is highly suitable for growing food crops, resulting in the unavailability of such land for food crop cultivation". Please support this statement with data/references. You should be aware that not all palm oil cultivates on "food producers' land". To make it balanced, you should explain, by data, in which land palm oil was produced.