

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

Isaac Sarfo¹

¹ Henan Univeristy

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In my opinion, this research dubbed '*Palm Oil Expansion and Subnational Food Security*' has some level of application value that could inform decisions/policy. I find some merits in this manuscript. However, there are some issues that authors are advised to carefully consider to improve the scientific outlook/robustness and flow or proficiency level of the paper as some moderate to major grammatical defects and syntax errors were identified throughout the manuscript.

Detailed comments:

This study examines the impact of oil palm expansion on the food security status at the provincial level in Indonesia. My concerns are as follows:

Title: The title is appropriate.

Abstract: Generally, the abstract is well written and succinct. Minor grammatical defects were identified in the abstract that needs to be rectified/revised.

Introduction:

-The introduction needs to be reorganized. Paragraphs that constitute 3 sentences should be merged with preceding paragraphs where necessary so they do not appear as stand-alone sentences. Again, after the background or rationale, the authors could use sub-sections or headers to present research progress/underpinning theories that narrows the study down to what this paper attempts to address.

-The introduction lacks in-text citations consider the authors making references to several statistics and materials/reports. Such claims or facts must be substantiated or referenced.

-Authors need to integrate the relevance or contribution of this study in the last or last but one paragraph.

Methodology:

-Requires re-organization or structuring of the section into sub-sections for clarity purposes on data, approaches and data analysis procedures.

-Authors need to refrain from giving too much details and be more specific in relation to the main methods applied to achieve the objectives set out in the current study.

-Equations given in this study must be numbered with all variables clearly explained. Interpretation or connotation of some variables in the model specification are missing.

Results

-It is inappropriate to start or commence the results section in the way that it is currently presented. The author is advised to briefly introduce the section in a sentence or two before presenting the results in order of the study's objectives for consistency and coherence purposes.

-Tables must be inserted in a presentable format and not as images or pasted directly from the software/model. In addition, table captions must be separated from the table (i.e., not captured as part of the results) and placed above the table clearly.

-The author needs to separate the discussion section from results section.

Conclusion

-Standalone sentences or paragraphs containing 2 sentences must be merged with preceding paragraphs.

-Authors can highlight some study limitations or opportunities that could drive future studies.