

# Review of: "The Contribution of Subsistence Agriculture to the Livelihoods of the Smallholder Farmers in South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo"

Christopher Ihinegbu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Nigeria

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The author's assessment of the contribution of subsistence agriculture to the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers in South Kivu in DRC is insightful and relevant. However, I made the following observations:

1. The introduction focused too much on the background of the study context and made little argument about the study's significance or contribution to the field of study.
2. The labels (texts) in Fig. 1 are not legible. Consider the reproduction of the map.
3. On page 5, the author(s) made this statement: "...Pre-testing enabled the interviewers to familiarize and review the contents in the questionnaire...". I wonder why the author(s) referred to the interviewers when discussing testing the questionnaire. Shouldn't that be done by the researcher or survey canvasser(s)? Does the author(s) mean to talk about the interview guide instead?
4. In the third paragraph of the discussion, the author(s) indicated that subsistence agricultural practices to a large extent did not lead to an improvement in the socioeconomic status and sustainable livelihoods of the people in South Kivu province. However, the author(s) did not justify or give reasons why this is so in the study area. I recommended that the author(s) review and cite Nnadi et al. (2021): <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10911359.2020.1803173>, to understand the factors that may contribute to improved socioeconomic status in agricultural or rural communities other than farming.
5. The authors should discuss the significant contribution of this study in the discussion section.
6. In the last paragraph of the discussion, the authors should consider highlighting this study's limitations—its design and methods—and suggesting areas for future research.