

Review of: "Exploring the Link between Climate Change and Farming in Rural and Peri-Urban Communities in Sierra Leone"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Exploring the Link between Climate Change and Farming in Rural and Peri-Urban Communities in Sierra Leone is a relevant topic in the context where extreme climate events have a negative impact on farming systems, resulting in huge crop losses. However, the method adopted by the authors did not allow for the exploration of this link. In fact, only qualitative data from farmers' perceptions were used to assess the impact of climate change on farming activities. This is not sufficient; quantitative data on crop productions from 2014 to 2023 should be used to test the relationship between annual crop yield and climate variables. In addition, a 10-year period is too short to really appreciate the impact of climate change on farming systems. In general, we need information over 30 consecutive years.

Why did the authors combine data from rural households and semi-urban areas in their analysis? People's perceptions and adaptation to climate change may differ between these areas because their socio-economic and demographic levels are completely different. Therefore, the relevant approach was to compare farmers' perceptions and their adaptation strategies between the two areas, which could help to support decision-making in addressing specific climate issues in each area.

This study should tell us which crop is most affected by climate variability during the last decade and which ones are more resilient. Such results can help to formulate efficient recommendations in terms of adaptation strategies.

Data analysis needs to be improved by identifying clear factors (or drivers) and response variables to perform statistical tests, making it possible to check the significance level between factors.

The writing style also needs to be improved.

With regard to this statistic, it seems that almost half of the households in the study area are headed by women. I am not sure!

Your interviews were conducted with heads of households. What do you call "head of households"?

Decision: paper rejected.

