

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The proposed paper contributes to highlight the challenge of enhancing food security in relation and in contrast to the expansion of palm oil production, which is in fact a rather controversial topic in food science, and research on it is therefore encouraged.

The paper is very-well detailed, the language used is proper and understandable for multiple interested target groups, however the content would benefit from a minor restructuring and revision to improve and simplify readability and avoid redundancy through a more concise writing style.

Particularly, the introduction section is very descriptive and lengthy, some citations are missing from the literature and some paragraphs are unnecessary in view of the main research objectives and could be removed. Ideally, the literature review should be followed by the identification of the research gap and consequent research objectives, which should be clearly stated in a more organized way.

The methodology section should be better structured and detailed, subdividing into sample selection, data collection and data analysis. It should also justify the methodology chosen to conduct the research with supporting evidence backed up by the literature.

Because of its length, the results and discussion parts should be separated to avoid overlap and improve structure. With regard to the content, both sections (results and discussion) should be reorganized using proper subheadings to answer in order to the initial research objectives in order to enhance consistency. The discussion should also be backed up by the relevant literature.

The conclusion section, which in the present form include policy recommendation, should stand alone and be anticipated by an additional section relative to the theoretical and practical implications for all interested parties both in the private and public sector. Based on the findings and outcome of the research, suggestions should be detailed in terms of further studies, policy and practice to better highlight the significance of the research.