

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. NO

The authors should remember that there is a difference between climate variability and climate change.

CLIMATE VARIABILITY is the natural variation in climate, both within the same year and from one year to the next. It is the amplitude of the deviation from the climate average and represents the natural intra- and inter-annual variation in the climate. More generally, it is the extent to which the climate fluctuates on different scales of time and space.

CLIMATE CHANGE refers to changes in the mean state of the climate or its variability, persisting over an extended period. Climate change can be caused by natural changes or persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use.

Over a 10-year period (2014-2023), we cannot talk about climate change but rather climate variability; 10 years is a very short period. For this kind of study, we need climate data for a period of at least 30 years.

Please, authors are invited to read this research paper:

Animekh Hazarika, Arun Jyoti Nath, Demsai Reang, Rajiv Pandey, Gudeta W. Sileshi, Ashesh Kumar Das. 2024. Climate change vulnerability and adaptation among farmers practicing shifting agriculture in the Indian Himalayas. Environmental and Sustainability Indicators <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indic.2024.100430>

The subject addressed by the authors is highly relevant and topical, but the data collection methodology is not sufficiently clear and precise. For example, there is no mention of the number of people surveyed per district or the minimum age for the surveys. Did the authors need the help of local interpreters for each locality visited?

The authors said, "Ethical procedures for social science data collection were followed." What are these procedures? This part must be very clear!

In this part (methodology), the authors have conducted their study in seven districts. For a better profile of the study area, in addition to the information already provided for each district, authors must add the following information: the size of each district; the number of people per district; the elevation of the district; the mean annual temperature; the mean annual rainfall, etc. These information must be presented in one paragraph per district.

For a better understanding and reproducibility of the methodology, the authors should proceed as follows:

1. Profile of the study area
2. Data collection
3. Data analysis

Conclusion

In view of the comments made on the article submitted to us for evaluation, and in view of the extent of the corrections to be made, we reject this article outright.