

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

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting topic: examining how subnational food security status in Indonesia is affected by the rise of the oil palm industry. However, the current version of this manuscript does not present the study well.

For instance, the introduction about food security, palm oil expansion, and the relationship between food security and palm oil expansion in Indonesia are not well supported by other studies or references. And besides an introduction about the policy background, there should be a scientific literature review, which analyzes related scientific questions and results from other studies, for example, those that investigated the relationship between food security and other industry expansion. Moreover, the introduction section is not concise and clear, making it hard to follow, sub titles may help to improve this.

Another improvement that I suggest is the 2nd section, Research Methodology. Explicit and clear methodology allows other scientists to replicate and verify the study, while the current version is too brief and omits crucial information such as data collection and analysis.

Thirdly, in order to improve the value of the study, the results should be better analyzed and discussed, comparing them with other findings from similar literature, so that detailed and applicable implications could be suggested.

Some other detailed comments are as follows:

1. It is better to clarify the four dimensions of food security in the abstract.
2. "Furthermore, it was found that food expenditure has an unequivocally negative impact on food security status." Does this have some relationship with oil palm expansion? If so, please clarify it.
3. The implication is vague and should be more specific and applicable.
4. There is no reference to support the statement about palm oil in the first 8 paragraphs of the introduction section.
5. Sub titles are suggested to improve the readability of the manuscript.
6. The quality of Figure 1 is low-resolution and hard to read.