

Review of: "Growth, Instability and Trend Analysis of Rice Production Indicators in Nigeria"

Kokou Adambounou Amouzou

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This study used a novel approach to provide insight into the effects of area, yield, and their interaction and instability index on Nigerian rice production over 5 decades. The manuscript is well written. Based on a secondary dataset, the Results confirm well-known trends of rice production in Nigeria and the West African region, with rice production driven by area expansion rather than yield increase through sustainable intensification.

The manuscript requires careful revision of the Introduction and Discussion sections. The Introduction and Discussion can be better connected to support the observed trends highlighted in the Results with the study background and the key underlining drivers of the instable yield performance. The latter requires major revision as well in the Discussion with relevant references. The Introduction section needs a highlight on existing evidence regarding Nigerian rice production systems (*e.g., cropping systems, soil fertility issues, weather-climate related issues, soil-crop management, existing technologies and their adoption, often-complex rice genotype-environment-management interactions*) to support not only the driving factors indicated in interpreting the Results, but also the conclusion and recommendations of the study related to sustainable rice production strategies, key to counterbalancing insecurity in rice, and thus achieving self-sufficiency.

An in-depth effort addressing these key points in the introduction could help recast the discussion section to thoroughly tackle the observed trajectory in rice production indices against the possible driving factors as supported by the literature. I therefore suggest to the authors that they separate the Discussion section from the Results for clarity.