

**Review Form 1.7**

Journal Name:	<b>Journal of Agriculture and Ecology Research International</b>
Manuscript Number:	<b>Ms_JAERI_115195</b>
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>PERCEPTION AND KNOWLEDGE OF RICE VALUE CHAIN ACTORS ON THE EFFECT OF IMPROVED PRACTICES ON YIELD AND MILLING CHARACTERISTICS OF RICE IN THE SAGNARIGU AND KUMBUNGU DISTRICTS OF GHANA</b>
Type of the Article	<b>Research Article</b>

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**PART 1: Review Comments**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p><b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments</p> <p>1. <b>Is the manuscript important for scientific community?</b> (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</p> <p>2. <b>Is the title of the article suitable?</b> (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p> <p>3. <b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</b></p> <p>4. <b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p> <p>5. <b>Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</b></p> <p>6. <b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</b></p> <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Please see the comments</p> <p>Please see the comments</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	
<p><b>Minor</b> REVISION comments</p> <p>1. <b>Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>NO</p>	
<p><b>Optional/General</b> comments</p>	<p>The study titled "Perception and Knowledge of Rice Value Chain Actors on the Effect of Improved Practices on Yield and Milling Characteristics of Rice in the Sagnarigu and Kumbungu Districts of Ghana" provides valuable insights into the current practices and perceptions of rice farmers, processors, and marketers in Northern Ghana. However, several aspects of the study warrant critical evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The study claims to have surveyed 134 rice farmers, 82 rice processors, and 22 rice marketers. Given the scope of the research area, the adequacy and representativeness of this sample size are questionable. The districts of Sagnarigu and Kumbungu may have a larger population of rice value chain actors, and a larger sample size could have provided a more comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand.</li> <li>2. The study aims to investigate the effect of improved practices on rice yield and milling characteristics, but the discussion primarily revolves around the current practices employed by farmers. A more in-depth analysis or</li> </ol>	

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	<p>comparison of traditional and improved practices is needed, which limits the study's ability to draw conclusive insights regarding the efficacy of improved practices in enhancing rice production and milling outcomes.</p> <p>3. the introduction cites several studies to support its claims regarding rice production and challenges in Africa, but there needs to be more consistency in citation styles. For instance, some citations include only the authors' names and publication years (e.g., "Seck et al., 2013"), while others include additional details such as the publication titles (e.g., "Muthayya et al., 2014"). Ensuring uniformity in citation style would enhance the professionalism and readability of the introduction.</p> <p>4. The introduction relies on various sources of data and statistics to underscore the importance of rice production in Ghana and the challenges faced by the industry. However, critically evaluating the reliability and timeliness of these data sources is crucial. For instance, some statistics cited may need to be updated or based on estimates rather than recent empirical studies, potentially affecting the accuracy and relevance of the information presented.</p> <p>5. While the introduction highlights key challenges facing rice production in Ghana, such as low adoption of modern farm technologies, limited availability of fertilizers, and low-yielding varieties, it does not delve deeply into the complex interplay of socio-economic, environmental, and institutional factors contributing to these challenges. Providing a more nuanced understanding of these challenges' root causes and dynamics would enrich the discussion and inform more targeted interventions.</p> <p>6. The introduction effectively establishes the context and importance of the study but needs to transition more smoothly to the research objective. There is a sudden shift from discussing the challenges of rice production to investigating the perception and knowledge of rice value chain actors on the effect of improved practices. A more cohesive transition would enhance the logical flow of the introduction and better align the research objective with the preceding discussion.</p> <p>7. While the research objective is stated towards the end of the introduction, it could be more clearly articulated to convey the specific focus and aims of the study explicitly. Providing a concise and precise statement of the research objective would help readers understand the purpose of the study more easily and facilitate a better understanding of its scope and relevance.</p> <p>8. The methodology section describes a multi-stage sampling methodology appropriate for capturing diverse perspectives within the target population. However, the rationale behind selecting specific localities (Sagnarigu Kuku and Bontanga) and the criteria for stratifying the</p>	
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	<p>population into primary categories (producers, processors, marketers) and their subgroups must be adequately explained. Providing clear justification for these decisions would enhance the transparency and rigor of the sampling process.</p> <p>9. Purposive sampling for selecting the initial localities and simple random sampling for selecting respondents within each stratum are common approaches to science research. However, the section needs a detailed discussion of why these specific sampling techniques were chosen and how they address potential biases or ensure representativeness. Justifying the selection of sampling techniques would strengthen the methodological rigor of the study.</p> <p>10. The result section effectively presents the findings using tables, which enhance the readability and clarity of the results. However, there are instances where the tables could be further improved for better comprehension. For example, using abbreviations (e.g., "Fre" for frequency) without explanation may confuse readers unfamiliar with the terminology. Providing clear and consistent labels for table elements would facilitate interpretation.</p> <p>11. While the section reports on various demographic characteristics, farming practices, and preferences, it needs more substantive interpretation and discussion of the findings. For instance, the section presents percentages and frequencies of different variables without deeper analysis or contextualization. Providing insights into the implications of the findings, identifying patterns or trends, and discussing their significance within the broader context of rice production in</p> <p>12. The analysis identifies the gender gap in various roles within the rice value chain. However, a deeper exploration of the underlying reasons for this gap is needed. Are there cultural or systemic barriers that prevent women from participating more actively in certain stages of rice production?</p> <p>13. While citing previous studies reinforces the findings, the review could benefit from discussing potential strategies to address these gender disparities. Merely highlighting the problem without proposing solutions limits the study's practical implications.</p> <p>14. The discussion on age distribution provides valuable insights into the demographics of rice farmers, processors, and marketers. However, it needs to be compared with trends in other regions or countries. Understanding how age demographics differ across various contexts could provide valuable context for interpreting the findings.</p> <p>15. Additionally, there is a missed opportunity to explore the implications of an aging workforce in rice production. How might this demographic trend impact future</p>	
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	<p>productivity and sustainability in the rice industry?</p> <p>16. The study identifies the qualities that influence the choice of rice varieties for processing and marketing; it overlooks the role of consumer preferences and market dynamics in shaping these decisions. Incorporating market research or consumer surveys could provide valuable insights into the factors driving consumer demand for specific rice varieties and qualities, thereby informing targeted marketing strategies.</p> <p>17. The study's conclusions are largely descriptive and lack actionable insights. Providing specific recommendations for policy-makers, industry stakeholders, and researchers would enhance the practical utility of the findings. Moreover, the recommendations could benefit from prioritization based on feasibility and potential impact, ensuring that key issues are addressed systematically and strategically.</p>	
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**PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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