

**Review Form 1.7**

Journal Name:	<b>Advances in Research</b>
Manuscript Number:	<b>Ms_AIR_115565</b>
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>An Application of Markov Chain Analysis to Study the Indian Cocoa Products Export Performance</b>
Type of the Article	

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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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Is the manuscript important for scientific community?</b> (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</li> <li><b>Is the title of the article suitable?</b> (If not please suggest an alternative title)</li> <li><b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</b></li> <li><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></li> <li><b>Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</b></li> <li><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</b></li> </ol> <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title of the article is suitable although my suggestion is to consider one more version of the title for this article in the way: <b>An Application of Markov Chain for Analysis of Export Performance of Indian Cocoa Products; or for example: An Application of Markov Chain for Structural Analysis of Export Performance of Indian Cocoa Products</b> For the keywords I would suggest adding: <b>Export markets, predictions...</b></li> <li>Abstract of the article is suitable because it stated all the important elements that are truly present in the article, with all main points mentioned, although I do suggest that it should be added to which period does the transitional probabilities imply on (2025/2026.). Also I suggest that it could be added in abstract which changes are expected in the structure of the export of cocoa based on the analysis.</li> <li>Subsections of the article are very well conceptualized and they represent the flow of the thought in the article. Very positive is that in the discussion part as well in methodology there are subtitles that are pointing out what is written in each section for better orientation for reading the article.  What i would <b>suggest</b> is the better composition of the section "Trade Directions of exports of Indian cocoa products" in Results and Discussion, in the way that I think that Table 2 (which is in the text wrongly written as Table 3, as well as Table 3 that is in the text wrongly written as Table 4), should be after the paragraph that starts with "The trade directions of exports of Indian cocoa products...". Also, as I mentioned, in the text Tables are wrongly written as Table 3 and 4 instead of Table 2 and 3. Table 3 is presented after the references, at the end of the article, so I believe that there should be subsection called <b>Appendix</b> at the end.</li> <li>I think that the manuscript is scientifically correct. All the methodology is thoroughly presented. One thing that I would suggest for correction if the Authors think that is possible is to add some of the names of "<b>Other countries</b>" (countries that represent the most share in that section of other countries), not in the tables but in the text, because it presents more than 50% in the total share of exports. This is the reason why I think that some of this countries should be at least stated in the text, on which does this "other countries" refer to. One thing that I think should be better explained throughout the article is wetter the share of the exports is presented of the total VALUE (as it was stated at the beginning of the article what is the value of exports of cocoa products from India), or the total AMOUNT of the exports. This I think that is important to better explain and write in the article.</li> <li>When it comes to references, I find that it is well presented in the text in which other articles and works some research was already done and how this article confirms some of the previous work from cited articles and authors. I would also suggest that this could be added for the usage of the Markov analysis (when it was first introduced in the methodology sections - if it was used for similar research before, for maybe different type of products - other than cacao products). Also, for the references, <u>date when it was approached to the sites, and the institution or the name of the used web page (article from the official institution), should be added for at least two (2) cited references at the end of the cited references.</u></li> </ol>	
<p><b>Minor</b> REVISION comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></li> </ol>	<p>Language of the article is rather correct and there are no major corrections that should be done. What I found that should be coorrected is the plural of The Netherlands, that is not written correctly in the Abstract and in some parts of the article also. So everywhere should be written The Netherlands.</p>	

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	<p>Also, I found some sentences not that understandable and I would suggest correcting them in terms of rephrasing:          "The actual share of Nigeria had shown huge fluctuation..." should have added "share of <b>exports</b> of Nigeria..." (addition) and also <b>fluctuations</b> instead of singular fluctuation.          "The Netherlands (3.32 %) and other countries (3.87 %). Whereas, exports to Nepal showed a <u>negative growth rate</u> of 5.22 per cent...." - negative growth rate could be maybe better stated as <b>negative trend, or falling</b> etc. And not growth rate (because it is not growing), this is only my suggestion.          I find this sentence in the Introduction: "<u>India is gaining foreign exchange by way of the export of cocoa beans and their products.</u>" not enough understandable, that it should be rephrased - if export of cocoa beans and their products is gaining more importance for India etc. (something like that).          For this part of the introduction I would suggest:          " In India, cocoa is largely cultivated in Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Cocoa products are in high demand due to their use in various food processing industries and other industries." - adding region after the counted regions, just for it to be clear what are these stated names (or state etc.). Also I would suggest changing "in high demand" for example to "there is a high demand for cocoa products".</p>	
<p><b>Optional/General</b>comments</p>	<p>In general I believe that this article could have some changes that I mentioned earlier, but that it is well conceptualized and that it has some conclusions that are important and can be beneficial for the policy implementation, especially for the part of the predictions for the future of trade i this area for India for the future collaboration with different countries.</p>	

**PART 2:**

	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>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b></p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

**Reviewer Details:**

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