

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	South Asian Journal of Social Studies and Economics
Manuscript Number:	Ms_SAJSSSE_126767
Title of the Manuscript:	LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS AND THE INTENSITY OF USE AMONG FARMERS IN NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript is important for the scientific community because it provides a detailed analysis of livelihood diversification strategies among farmers in North Central Nigeria, a region highly impacted by climate change and economic challenges. The use of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) to prioritize livelihood options adds a rigorous decision-making framework that could guide both policymakers and development agencies in formulating support programs for rural communities. I appreciate the manuscript's focus on diverse income sources, which highlights the adaptive strategies that farmers use to manage risks and improve resilience. However, including more recent data on climate impacts and a deeper discussion of the AHP methodology's limitations would strengthen the overall analysis.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The current title, "Livelihood Options and the Intensity of Use Among Farmers in North Central Nigeria," is descriptive and adequately reflects the focus on livelihood strategies and prioritization among farmers. However, it could be more engaging and specific to highlight the study's analytical approach and emphasis on resilience.</p> <p>Suggested Alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Evaluating Livelihood Diversification and Resource Use Intensity Among Farmers in North Central Nigeria" • "Livelihood Diversification Strategies and Their Prioritization Among Farmers in North Central Nigeria" <p>These titles emphasize both the range of livelihood activities and the prioritization analysis, making the article's focus clearer for readers.</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract provides a useful overview of the study, including the aim, methodology, and general findings. However, there are areas where it could be improved for greater clarity and impact.</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantitative Data: Include key quantitative findings, such as the income levels associated with primary livelihood activities (e.g., crop farming's contribution) and specific AHP priority scores. This would give readers a clearer sense of the results at a glance. 2. Methodology Details: Mention that the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) was used as a decision-making tool, but clarify why it was chosen over other methods. This will underline the rigor of the methodology. 3. Concluding Statement: Strengthen the conclusion by highlighting the study's broader implications for livelihood resilience and policy-making in rural economies. <p>By incorporating these points, the abstract would be more informative and impactful, making it easier for readers to quickly grasp the study's significance.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The subsections and structure of the manuscript are generally appropriate, as it follows a clear academic structure with sections for Introduction, Methodology, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion. This layout provides a logical flow for readers to understand the study's background, process, and findings.</p>	

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	<p>Suggestions for Improvement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Methodology Subsections: The methodology could benefit from clearer subsections, such as "Data Collection," "Sampling Method," and "Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP)" to make it easier for readers to follow each methodological step. Results and Discussion Separation: The manuscript might improve readability by keeping Results and Discussion as separate sections. Currently, some interpretative elements may be mixed with results, which can reduce clarity. Clarity in Tables and Figures: Ensure that all tables and figures are well-labeled and directly referenced in the text. Adding brief subsection headers for specific tables (e.g., "Livelihood Diversification Results") can help readers locate key information quickly. <p>The structure is solid but could be optimized for better organization and readability by clarifying subsections and maintaining a distinct separation between findings and interpretations.</p>	
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound due to its rigorous methodology and use of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), a well-regarded tool for multi-criteria decision-making. By systematically applying AHP to assess livelihood options, the study provides a structured, quantitative basis for ranking livelihood activities based on importance and income potential among farmers in North Central Nigeria. The use of a multi-stage sampling technique for data collection further enhances the study's reliability and generalizability within the region. Minor improvements, such as additional clarification on data validation steps and potential limitations of AHP, could enhance the overall transparency and robustness of the findings.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p> <p>:-</p>	<p>The references in the manuscript cover key studies on livelihood diversification, climate impacts, and rural economy, providing a solid background for the research. However, many of the sources are somewhat outdated, with limited citations from the last 5-7 years. Incorporating more recent studies would enhance the manuscript's relevance and provide a more current perspective on the issues facing rural livelihoods in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>Suggested Additional References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recent studies on climate change adaptation and rural livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa (2018 onwards) to update the discussion on adaptive strategies. Latest advancements in AHP applications for social science or economic studies to highlight methodological rigor and innovation. Research on livelihood diversification in similar rural economies (e.g., recent case studies from West Africa) to strengthen the comparative context. <p>Updating the reference list with these types of sources would bring a more contemporary viewpoint and align the manuscript with current discussions in rural development and livelihood resilience.</p>	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language quality of the article is generally suitable for scholarly communication, as it uses appropriate terminology and follows an academic tone. However, there are areas where clarity and readability could be improved:</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Simplify Complex Sentences: Some sentences are lengthy or overly complex. Breaking these down would make the manuscript easier to follow, particularly for readers outside the field. Grammar and Punctuation: Minor grammatical issues and punctuation errors are present and should be addressed to enhance fluency. Consistency in Terminology: Ensure that key terms, such as "livelihood diversification" and "intensity of use," are used consistently throughout to avoid confusion. <p>A final round of proofreading and minor edits for grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure would further polish the manuscript for scholarly standards.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>The manuscript provides a valuable contribution to understanding livelihood diversification and its prioritization among farmers in North Central Nigeria. The use of Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) is an effective and innovative approach, adding rigor to the analysis of livelihood options. However, there are some areas for potential enhancement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Broader Implications: Including a brief discussion on how these findings might be relevant to other regions with similar economic or environmental conditions would strengthen the manuscript's generalizability. Policy Recommendations: While the conclusion addresses the importance of diversification, more specific recommendations for policymakers or rural development organizations would add practical value. Data Transparency: Providing additional details on data limitations or possible biases in sample selection would increase the study's transparency. <p>These enhancements would improve the manuscript's impact and applicability, making it more insightful for both researchers and practitioners in rural development.</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>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

Reviewer Details:

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