

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Asian Journal of Food Research and Nutrition</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJFRN_127149
Title of the Manuscript:	Evaluation of Fungal Contamination in Whole and Sliced Ready-to-Eat Fruits Sold in Port Harcourt, Nigeria
Type of the Article	

#### **General guidelines for the Peer Review process:**

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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#### **Important Policies Regarding Peer Review**

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#### PART 1: Review Comments

<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's Feedback</b> (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<b>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.</b>	This manuscript is important as it highlights critical public health concerns related to food safety, specifically focusing on fungal contamination in ready-to-eat fruits. It provides valuable data on contamination levels across different markets, which can guide future food safety regulations and interventions. I appreciate this manuscript because it identifies the problem and offers practical recommendations for improving hygiene practices and regulatory measures. Such actionable insights can significantly enhance food safety and protect consumer health.	
<b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b>	Yes, the title of the article is suitable.	
<b>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.</b>	I think the abstract of the article is quite comprehensive. It is offering a clear and concise overview of the study's objectives, methodology, results, and conclusions.	
<b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b>	Yes, the subsections and structure of the manuscript are generally appropriate.	
<b>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.</b>	The manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound due to its comprehensive methodology and rigorous data analysis. The study employs a clear and well-structured approach to sampling, microbiological analysis, and statistical evaluation, which ensures the reliability and reproducibility of the results. The use of established techniques, such as serial dilution and culturing on Sabouraud Dextrose Agar, along with thorough statistical analysis using ANOVA and Tukey's post hoc tests, demonstrates the scientific rigor applied. In addition, the discussion effectively contextualizes the findings within the existing literature, highlighting both consistencies and discrepancies, which contributes to a deeper understanding of the issue.	
<b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b>	The references in the manuscript are generally sufficient but some references are slightly outdated (e.g., WHO, 2015). If possible, please add more recent studies to strengthen the research's context and relevance.	
<b>Minor</b> REVISION comments		
<b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b>	The language and English quality of the article are acceptable for scholarly communication. Please make revision again to improve the English quality of the article.	
<b>Optional/General</b> comments	This manuscript is a valuable contribution to the field of food safety, particularly in regions with similar challenges. The manuscript is well-structured, with clear subsections that make it easy to follow the research process and findings. The focus on fungal contamination in ready-to-eat fruits highlights significant health risks and provides practical recommendations for improving food safety practices. Incorporating more recent studies and expanding the discussion on existing literature could provide better context and strengthen the background information.	

#### PART 2:

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

#### Reviewer Details:

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