

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Advances in Research
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AIR_125470
Title of the Manuscript:	Exploration of Challenges in Cashew Production: A Comparative analysis of Kerala and Tamil Nadu
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>
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.	This manuscript is important for the scientific community as it addresses the pressing challenges faced by cashew farmers, a key sector in India's agricultural economy. By providing a comparative analysis of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the study highlights region-specific issues like pest infestations, labor shortages, and market instability, offering valuable insights for policymakers and agricultural researchers. The findings can lead to more informed decisions regarding policy reforms and technical interventions that are crucial for improving cashew production, sustainability, and farmer livelihoods. I appreciate this manuscript's practical approach, focusing on real-world challenges and proposing tangible solutions, making it highly relevant for agricultural research and policy development.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	The current title, " <i>Exploration of Challenges in Cashew Production: A Comparative Analysis of Kerala and Tamil Nadu</i> ," is fairly clear and descriptive, but it could be refined for better focus and impact. Here are a couple of alternative suggestions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "Challenges in Cashew Cultivation: A Comparative Study of Kerala and Tamil Nadu" This title emphasizes the cultivation challenges and the comparative aspect.2. "Assessing Key Constraints in Cashew Production: Insights from Kerala and Tamil Nadu" This version highlights the assessment of key constraints, giving a more specific focus to the study. Both alternatives maintain the comparative nature of the study while being concise and clear.	

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<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 is comprehensive, but a few areas can be enhanced for clarity and completeness. Here are my suggestions:</p> <p>Suggested Additions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Context or Background: Briefly mention the significance of cashew cultivation in India's agricultural sector at the start, which will provide context for international readers unfamiliar with the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested addition: <i>"India is one of the largest producers of cashews globally, with Kerala and Tamil Nadu playing a major role in its production."</i> Methods Explanation: While the sampling method is explained, providing a bit more detail on the data analysis methods (e.g., specific non-parametric tools used) could enhance understanding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested addition: <i>"Non-parametric tools, such as the Chi-square test, were used for statistical analysis."</i> Implications: Mentioning the broader relevance of the findings, such as potential implications for other cashew-producing regions or agricultural policy, would add depth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested addition: <i>"These findings offer insights that can be applied to other cashew-producing regions and inform national agricultural policies."</i> <p>Suggested Deletions/Modifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive Detail: The explanation of sampling could be shortened slightly without losing meaning, as the exact details may be more appropriate in the methodology section. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modification: Simplify <i>"multi-stage purposive sampling method for selection of states, districts, blocks and gram panchayat"</i> to <i>"a purposive multi-stage sampling approach to select regions."</i> Rewording: Phrases like "indiscriminately" are too strong for the description of challenges and can be toned down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modification: Change <i>"which affects the cashew cultivation indiscriminately"</i> to <i>"which significantly impacts cashew cultivation."</i> 	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The subsections and structure of a manuscript are critical for clarity and flow. Based on the abstract, the structure seems logical but could benefit from more explicit organization to enhance readability. Here's a suggested outline for improving the structure, with appropriate subsections:</p> <p>Suggested Subsections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide background on the importance of cashew cultivation in India, particularly in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Clearly state the research problem and objectives. Introduce the scope and significance of the comparative study. Literature Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief review of existing studies on cashew production challenges. Highlight gaps in knowledge or research that your study aims to fill. Methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the sampling method (multi-stage purposive sampling) and explain why it was chosen. Provide details on data collection tools (structured interviews). Explain the data analysis methods (non-parametric statistical tools) in more detail. Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the findings, focusing on major challenges like pest infestation (Cashew Stem and Root Borer), labor scarcity, and unstable market prices. Include comparative results between Kerala and Tamil Nadu, supported by data. Discussion 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analyze the findings and how they align with or differ from previous research. ○ Discuss the regional-specific challenges and the broader implications of the results. ○ Highlight the significance of technical interventions and market improvements. <p>6. Conclusion and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summarize the key findings and their implications for policy and practice. ○ Offer practical recommendations for addressing challenges such as pest control, market stability, and technical training. ○ Suggest areas for future research. <p>7. References</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include a comprehensive list of all sources cited in the manuscript. <p>Structural Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarify Sections: Ensure that sections are well-defined with clear headings. This helps the reader navigate the paper easily. ● Flow: The flow from background to methodology to results should be smooth, with each section building upon the previous one. ● Comparative Emphasis: Since the study is a comparative analysis, ensure the results section clearly distinguishes the differences and similarities between Kerala and Tamil Nadu. 	
<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 because it employs a well-structured research design, including a multi-stage purposive sampling method and a random sampling approach, which ensures a representative and unbiased sample of cashew farmers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The use of pre-tested structured interview schedules adds reliability to the data collection process, while the application of non-parametric statistical tools, such as SPSS, ensures rigorous data analysis. The focus on both pest infestations and socio-economic challenges (like labor and market issues) provides a holistic understanding of the factors affecting cashew production. Overall, the study is comprehensive, methodologically sound, and grounded in practical agricultural challenges.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p>	<p>Please add more references</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 clear but could be improved to better meet the standards of scholarly communication.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Here are some optional or general comments that could further enhance the manuscript:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further Exploration of Policy Implications: The study would benefit from a deeper exploration of how specific policy interventions can address the challenges faced by cashew farmers. Providing more concrete recommendations related to government support, subsidies, or extension services would strengthen the practical applicability of the findings. 2. Visual Representation of Data: Including tables, charts, or graphs to visually represent key findings (such as pest infestation rates, market price volatility, or labor shortages) could enhance the manuscript's clarity and make the results more accessible to readers. 3. Discussion of Sustainability: While the study touches on challenges like pest infestation and market instability, it could also explore sustainable farming practices that could help mitigate some of these issues in the long run. This would add depth to the discussion on the future of cashew farming. 4. Comparative Aspect: Since this is a comparative analysis between Kerala and Tamil Nadu, it may help to emphasize more specific differences in the challenges between the two regions, offering more regionally tailored solutions. 5. Consideration of External Factors: External factors such as climate change, global market conditions, or the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on labor shortages could be briefly addressed, as these issues are likely to affect agricultural production across regions. 	

PART 2:

	<p>Reviewer's comment</p>	<p>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>
<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>	

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