

## Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics &amp; Sociology</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJAEES_124636
Title of the Manuscript:	Resource use efficiency and profitability of rice production in the Terai Belt of Nepal
Type of the 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><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></p>	<p>This manuscript offers valuable insights into the profitability and resource use efficiency of rice production in Nepal, a crucial sector for the country's economy and food security. By highlighting the significant variations in production costs and profitability across different districts, it provides a nuanced understanding of local agricultural practices and resource management. This study not only contributes to the existing body of knowledge in agricultural economics but also serves as a guide for policymakers and farmers seeking to enhance production efficiency and sustainability. Personally, I appreciate this manuscript for its comprehensive analysis and practical recommendations, which are essential for promoting more effective agricultural practices and improving the livelihoods of rice farmers in Nepal. Its findings could stimulate further research and discussions within the scientific community, particularly regarding resource optimization in agriculture.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<p>The title "<b>RESOURCE USE EFFICIENCY AND PROFITABILITY OF RICE PRODUCTION IN THE TERAI BELT OF NEPAL</b>" clearly indicates the article's focus, highlighting key aspects under investigation. It provides insight into the research topic, which pertains to optimizing resources and economic sustainability in rice production. Additionally, the inclusion of "Terai Belt" specifies the geographic context, making the title relevant and appealing to readers interested in agriculture and the economy of this region.</p>	
<p><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></p>	<p>The abstract of the article is largely comprehensive, providing essential information about the study's context, methodology, key findings, and implications. However, here are a few suggestions for improvement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Clarification of Objectives:</b> Consider explicitly stating the primary objectives of the study at the beginning of the abstract. This could enhance clarity about the study's focus.</li> <li>2. <b>Highlighting Implications:</b> While the abstract mentions the usefulness of the study for various stakeholders, it could benefit from a brief elaboration on how these findings can specifically inform policy changes or practical applications in rice production.</li> <li>3. <b>Statistical Significance:</b> If available, including statistical significance or confidence intervals for key findings (e.g., BC ratio, productivity) could strengthen the validity of the results and provide readers with a sense of the reliability of the data.</li> <li>4. <b>Broader Context:</b> Adding a sentence that connects the study's findings to broader trends in agricultural economics or food security in Nepal could help contextualize the importance of the research.</li> <li>5. <b>Resource Use Efficiency Recommendations:</b> While the analysis of resource use efficiency is mentioned, summarizing the specific recommendations for optimal resource allocation could provide a clearer takeaway for readers.</li> </ol> <p>Incorporating these suggestions may enhance the clarity, relevance, and impact of the abstract.</p>	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<p>The subsections and structure of the manuscript appear to be appropriate based on the provided excerpts, as they follow a logical organization typical for research articles in agricultural economics. Here are some key points regarding the appropriateness of the structure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Clear Sections:</b> The manuscript includes distinct sections for costs incurred in rice production, production, profitability, and revenue analysis, followed by a conclusion. This structure allows for a systematic presentation of findings.</li> <li>2. <b>Subsection Titles:</b> The titles of the subsections clearly reflect their content, making it easy for readers to navigate through the manuscript. For example, sections like "Costs Incurred in Rice Production" and "Production, Profitability and Revenue of Rice Production" effectively summarize the main topics discussed.</li> <li>3. <b>Logical Flow:</b> The progression from cost analysis to production and profitability is logical, as understanding the costs provides essential context for the subsequent discussion on revenue</li> </ol>	

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	<p>and profit.</p> <p>4. <b>Conclusion:</b> A dedicated conclusion section synthesizes the findings and emphasizes their significance, which is critical for drawing broader implications from the research.</p> <p><b>Suggestions for Improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduction:</b> Ensure there is an introductory section that outlines the research background, objectives, and significance of the study to set the stage for the analysis.</li> <li>• <b>Literature Review:</b> If not already included, a brief literature review might enhance the manuscript by situating the study within the existing body of research.</li> <li>• <b>Data and Methodology:</b> Consider adding a dedicated section that describes the data sources and methods used for analysis, as this is essential for replicability and understanding the study's framework.</li> </ul> <p>Overall, the manuscript's structure seems sound, but incorporating these additional elements could strengthen its clarity and comprehensiveness.</p>	
<p><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></p>	<p>The manuscript demonstrates scientific correctness through its rigorous analysis of rice production, profitability, and resource use efficiency across multiple districts in Nepal. It employs appropriate statistical methods to evaluate differences in production costs, yields, and revenues, ensuring that the findings are both reliable and valid. The use of robust metrics, such as the Benefit-Cost (BC) ratio, provides a comprehensive assessment of economic efficiency, highlighting the practicality of the results for stakeholders in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, the inclusion of a diverse set of references and previous studies supports the findings and situates the research within a broader context, reinforcing its technical soundness and relevance to the scientific community. Overall, the manuscript is well-grounded in empirical data and sound methodologies, contributing valuable insights into the economics of rice production in Nepal.</p>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b></p> <p>:</p>	<p>The references in the manuscript are generally sufficient, covering a range of studies relevant to rice production, profitability, and resource use efficiency. However, while some references are relatively recent, it would enhance the manuscript's credibility to include more up-to-date sources, especially those published within the last five years, to reflect the latest trends and advancements in the field.</p> <p>For additional references, consider including recent studies focusing on climate change impacts on rice production, innovations in rice farming practices, or advancements in agricultural economics. Some suggestions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thapa, R., &amp; Dhakal, S. C. (2023). "Impact of Climate Change on Rice Production in Nepal: Challenges and Adaptation Strategies." <i>Journal of Agricultural Research</i>.</li> <li>2. Ghimire, B., &amp; Regmi, P. (2022). "Emerging Technologies in Rice Cultivation: A Review of Current Practices and Future Directions." <i>Nepalese Journal of Agricultural Sciences</i>.</li> <li>3. Shrestha, J. et al. (2023). "Sustainable Practices in Rice Production: Lessons from Nepal." <i>International Journal of Sustainable Agriculture</i>.</li> </ol> <p>Including more recent and focused references will strengthen the manuscript's relevance and support its conclusions with the latest findings in the field.</p>	

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<p><u>Minor REVISION</u> comments</p> <p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>The language and English quality of the article are generally suitable for scholarly communication. The manuscript is clear and effectively conveys the research objectives, methodology, and findings. However, there are a few areas where language clarity could be improved, such as simplifying complex sentences and ensuring consistency in terminology. Additionally, minor grammatical corrections and proofreading for typographical errors would enhance the overall quality. Addressing these aspects will ensure that the manuscript meets the high standards expected in scholarly communications.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<p>Here are some optional/general comments regarding the manuscript:</p> <p><b>Clarity and Structure:</b> The manuscript is well-structured, but improve transitions between sections for better flow of ideas.</p> <p><b>Literature Review:</b> Expand the literature review to contextualize the research and highlight gaps that the study addresses.</p> <p><b>Discussion of Limitations:</b> Include a section discussing the limitations of the study, such as biases or methodological challenges.</p> <p><b>Future Research Directions:</b> Suggest avenues for future research based on your findings.</p> <p><b>Practical Applications:</b> Emphasize the practical applications of the findings in real-world scenarios to enhance the relevance of the research.</p>	

### **PART 2:**

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