

**Review Form 3**

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|--------------------------|---|
| Journal Name:            | <b>International Journal of Plant &amp; Soil Science</b>  |
| Manuscript Number:       | <b>Ms_IJPSS_122358</b>  |
| Title of the Manuscript: | <b>Investigating the ochratoxin production potential of Aspergillus spp in Indian Rice: A Comprehensive Study</b> |
| Type of the Article      |   |

### Review Form 3

#### 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) |
|---|---|---|
| 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.                        | The manuscript explores the ability of ochratoxin producing capability of 2 species of fungus isolated from different rice samples of Tamilnadu. The topic is quite relevant because rice is not only the staple food of India but also of many South East Asian countries as well and consumption of fungus contaminated rice in which ochratoxin might have been produced can lead to many health hazards. So, it is necessary to harvest and store the rice in proper environmental conditions to prevent the growth of the molds.   |   |
| Is the title of the article suitable?<br>(If not please suggest an alternative title)   | Yes   |   |
| 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.   | The abstract is quite appropriate.  |   |
| Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?  | Yes   |   |
| 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. | The authors have collected a total of 81 rice samples from various districts of Tamilnadu and from there they have isolated and identified ten isolates of <i>Aspergillus niger</i> and <i>Aspergillus ochraceus</i> based on 18s rDNA sequence analysis. All of the isolated were capable of producing ochratoxin as detected by RP HPLC-FLD analysis. They have also done a comparative analysis of the ochratoxin producing capacity of the various isolates and identified the strains which produced the maximum amount of ochratoxin. I think that the information provided in the manuscript is quite sufficient and adequate. |   |
| Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.   | The references are sufficient.  |   |
| <b>Minor</b> REVISION comments  |   |   |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?   | The quality of the English language is quite sound.   |   |
| <b>Optional/General</b> comments  |   |   |

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

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**Reviewer Details:**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Name:                            | <b>Saswati Gayen</b>  |
| Department, University & Country | <b>Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College, University of Calcutta, India</b> |