

**Review Form 3**

Journal Name:	<b>South Asian Journal of Research in Microbiology</b>
Manuscript Number:	<b>Ms_SAJRM_121966</b>
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>Identification and characterization of mycotoxins recovered from dry corn sold in selected markets in enugu metropolis, enugu state, nigeria.</b>
Type of the Article	

## Review Form 3

### 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 provides a valuable contribution to understanding the mycotoxin contamination of corn in Enugu metropolis, Nigeria. By identifying prevalent fungal species and quantifying mycotoxin levels, the authors highlight a significant public health concern. However, the study's focus on fungal isolation and mycotoxin production from cultured samples might not fully represent the mycotoxin profile of the actual, dry corn consumed by the population. Additionally, while the methods employed are standard for mycotoxin analysis, a more in-depth discussion of the limitations and uncertainties associated with the data would strengthen the manuscript. Despite these points, the findings underscore the urgent need for effective strategies to mitigate mycotoxin contamination in the corn supply chain.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<p>"High Prevalence of Mycotoxin-Producing Fungi in Corn from Enugu Metropolis: A Public Health Risk"</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 provides a good overview of the study. It clearly outlines the research objectives, methodology, and key findings. However, it could be improved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantifying the mycotoxin levels: Instead of stating "unacceptable mycotoxin concentrations," provide specific numerical data or ranges. This would strengthen the impact of the findings.</li> <li>• Highlighting the public health implications: Emphasize the potential health risks associated with consuming mycotoxin-contaminated corn. This will underscore the significance of the research.</li> <li>• Considering a concise conclusion: Briefly summarize the overall implications of the study in the final sentence.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<p>The manuscript presents a valuable exploration of mycotoxin contamination in corn from Enugu metropolis but requires substantial improvement. Key issues include a lack of detail in both the abstract and methodology sections, as well as the absence of crucial information about chemicals, equipment, and procedures used. Additionally, the presentation of results could be enhanced through the inclusion of graphs from GC and HPLC analysis. Overall, the manuscript would benefit from a more structured approach, incorporating detailed explanations of methods, comprehensive data visualization, and a stronger focus on the public health implications of the findings.</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 a comprehensive approach to investigating mycotoxin contamination in corn from Enugu metropolis. The study employs standard microbiological and analytical techniques, such as fungal isolation, identification, and mycotoxin analysis using GC-MS and HPLC. The inclusion of molecular identification through PCR enhances the accuracy of fungal species determination. Furthermore, the correlation of mycotoxin levels with specific fungal isolates provides valuable insights into the potential sources of contamination.</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>To enhance the manuscript's reference section, the authors should prioritize incorporating recent studies to reflect the latest research advancements in mycotoxin contamination. Additionally, including comprehensive review articles can provide essential context. Focusing on studies conducted in similar regions, such as Nigeria, will strengthen the research's relevance. Finally, adhering to the target journal's specific referencing style and format is crucial for maintaining academic standards.</p>	

### Review Form 3

<u>Minor REVISION</u> comments  Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	The language and English quality require improvement for effective scholarly communication. While the content appears sound, clarity and precision in language are essential for conveying complex scientific information accurately. The manuscript would benefit from careful editing to enhance readability and coherence.	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	The manuscript offers valuable insights into mycotoxin contamination in corn, yet it exhibits areas for improvement. While the study's methodology shows potential, crucial details about experimental procedures are missing. Additionally, the presentation of results could be enhanced through more effective data visualization. To elevate the manuscript's impact, the authors should consider expanding on the study's limitations, conducting a more in-depth data analysis, and refining the writing style for clarity and coherence.	

### **PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> <i>(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)</i>
<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:

Name:	<b>Glenn Vincent P. Ong</b>
Department, University & Country	<b>Institute of Human Nutrition and Food, College of Human Ecology, University of the Philippines Los Banos, Philippines</b>