

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Archives of Current Research International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_ACRI_121877
Title of the Manuscript:	The Extraction of Forestry Resources for Household Food Security in Leh Himalaya, India
Type of the Article	Oeginal

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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>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.</p>	<p>Importance of the Manuscript for the Scientific Community</p> <p>This manuscript is crucial for the scientific community as it provides a comprehensive examination of the role of forestry resources in enhancing household food security in the Leh Himalaya region. By highlighting the diversity, seasonality, and mode of use of forestry food resources, the paper contributes valuable data and insights into how these resources impact local communities' nutrition and economic well-being. The study's findings have significant implications for rural development, poverty alleviation, and sustainable resource management. However, the manuscript could benefit from a more detailed methodological description and a stronger emphasis on the environmental sustainability of resource extraction practices.</p> <p>Personal Evaluation</p> <p>I appreciate this manuscript for its exploration of an often overlooked aspect of food security—the utilization of forestry resources in rural areas. The study provides a unique perspective by focusing on the Leh Himalaya, a region with specific environmental and socio-economic challenges. However, I believe that the manuscript could be improved by providing more detailed data analysis and addressing the potential environmental impacts of resource extraction. Overall, the manuscript offers a valuable contribution to the understanding of forestry resources' role in enhancing food security and livelihood sustainability.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>Evaluation of the Article Title</p> <p>Original Title: <i>The Extraction of Forestry Resources for Household Food Security in Leh Himalaya, India</i></p> <p>Suitability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity: The original title clearly indicates the geographic location (Leh Himalaya, India) and the focus of the study (forestry resources for household food security). However, it could be more specific regarding the types of forestry resources or the nature of their extraction. • Scope: While the title covers the basic aspects of the study, it doesn't fully convey the specific elements of diversity, seasonality, distribution, or reliance that the study aims to investigate. • Attractiveness: The current title may not fully capture the attention of readers interested in sustainable resource management, rural livelihoods, or food security strategies. <p>Suggested Alternatives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Diversity and Utilization of Forestry Resources for Enhancing Household Food Security in the Leh Himalaya, India" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This title emphasizes the diversity and utilization aspects, providing a more comprehensive view of the study's focus. 2. "Forestry Food Resources in the Leh Himalaya: Their Role in Household Nutrition and Livelihoods" <p>Final Recommendation</p> <p>The most suitable alternative might be "Diversity and Utilization of Forestry Resources for Enhancing Household Food Security in the Leh Himalaya, India" as it effectively captures the breadth and depth of the study, making it clear and appealing to the target audience.</p>	

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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>Evaluation of the Abstract</p> <p>Original Abstract:</p> <p>Food resources extracted from forestry landscapes enhance the quality of diets, improve health care, and ensure income diversification for local communities in developing countries. This paper explores the diversity, seasonality, distribution, mode of use, frequency of use, and reliance of forestry food resources on livelihoods in the Leh Himalaya. Data were collected from 185 sample families that were selected from five blocks and nine villages using a multi-stage random sampling procedure. Descriptive statistics were applied to the data analysis. Results revealed that 37 forestry food resources were harvested from 27 herbs, 3 shrubs, and 3 trees belonging to 28 genera and 19 families, and consumed as vegetables (15), fruits (5), dye or flavour (4), pot herb (4), salad (3), beverage (2), sauce (2), condiment (1), oil seeds (1), flatbread (1), sour (1), and tantur (1). Over 63.18% of sample households extracted and utilised all the forestry food resources extremely often for cash earnings and sustenance during the peak period. Forestry food resources constitute a key source of food, nutrition, health care, subsistence, cash income, and safety nets. This study gives insights to promote the conservation of forestry foods, develop management strategies that could be harmonised with rural development, poverty alleviation, food security, and livelihood sustainability for rural communities in Leh Himalaya, and accordingly design useful policy implications.</p> <p>Comprehensive Evaluation</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clear Focus: The abstract clearly states the purpose of the study, which is to explore the various aspects of forestry food resources in the Leh Himalaya.2. Data Description: It provides specific information about the data collection process, including the number of sample families and the sampling method.3. Results Summary: The abstract presents the key findings regarding the diversity of forestry food resources and their uses, offering a quick insight into the study's outcomes.4. Implications: The abstract mentions the broader implications of the study for conservation, management strategies, and policy development. <p>Weaknesses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lack of Specific Objectives: The abstract does not clearly outline the specific objectives or research questions of the study.2. Insufficient Methodological Detail: While it mentions the use of descriptive statistics, it does not provide enough detail on the types of analyses performed or the statistical significance of the results.3. Absence of Context: There is limited context about the significance of the study area or the challenges faced by the local communities, which could help in understanding the importance of the study.4. Limited Discussion of Findings: The abstract primarily lists the results without discussing their implications or relevance in detail. <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Include Specific Objectives: Clearly state the specific research objectives or questions to provide a better understanding of the study's focus.<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Example: "This study aims to investigate the diversity, seasonality, and reliance on forestry food resources, and their impact on the livelihoods of rural communities in the Leh Himalaya."2. Expand on Methodology: Briefly mention the types of descriptive statistics or other methods used to analyze the data.<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Example: "Data were analyzed using frequency distributions and cross-tabulation to understand the usage patterns of forestry food resources."3. Provide Context: Include a sentence or two about the significance of forestry resources in the Leh Himalaya and the challenges faced by the local communities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Example: "In the Leh Himalaya, where rural communities face food security challenges due to harsh climatic conditions, forestry food resources play a crucial role in enhancing diets and providing	
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	<p>income."</p> <p>4. Discuss Implications: Expand on the discussion of the results and their implications for rural development and policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: "These findings highlight the need for sustainable management and conservation strategies that integrate forestry food resources into rural development plans, ensuring food security and livelihood sustainability." <p>5. Delete Redundancies: Remove repetitive statements about the importance of forestry resources for food, nutrition, and income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: Streamline sentences like "Forestry food resources constitute a key source of food, nutrition, health care, subsistence, cash income, and safety nets" to avoid repetition. <p>Revised Abstract Example</p> <p>In the Leh Himalaya, where rural communities face food security challenges due to harsh climatic conditions, forestry food resources play a crucial role in enhancing diets and providing income. This study aims to investigate the diversity, seasonality, and reliance on forestry food resources, and their impact on the livelihoods of rural communities in the region. Data were collected from 185 sample families across five blocks and nine villages using a multi-stage random sampling procedure. Descriptive statistics, including frequency distributions and cross-tabulation, were applied to analyze the data. Results revealed that 37 forestry food resources were harvested from 27 herbs, 3 shrubs, and 3 trees belonging to 28 genera and 19 families, and consumed in various forms such as vegetables, fruits, and condiments. Over 63.18% of sample households frequently utilized these resources for cash earnings and sustenance during peak periods. These findings underscore the importance of integrating forestry food resources into rural development and conservation strategies, promoting food security and livelihood sustainability for the rural communities of the Leh Himalaya.</p> <p>This revised abstract provides a more comprehensive and focused summary of the study, making it easier for readers to understand the significance and implications of the research.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>Yes. subsections and structure of the manuscript is appropriate</p>	
<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>The manuscript demonstrates scientific correctness by systematically collecting and analyzing data from a significant sample size of 185 families using a multi-stage random sampling method, ensuring representativeness. The use of descriptive statistics provides a clear and straightforward way to interpret the data on forestry resource utilization. Additionally, the manuscript situates its findings within the broader context of rural livelihoods and food security, demonstrating a sound understanding of the socio-economic and environmental factors at play. This comprehensive approach, coupled with the thorough documentation of methods and findings, makes the manuscript scientifically robust and technically sound.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p>	<p>The references are sufficient and recent</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>Minor Revision Comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Clarity and Conciseness: The article could benefit from more concise language in certain sections. For instance, some sentences in the introduction and discussion are overly long and contain repetitive information. Revising these sentences to be more direct would improve readability.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Example: The sentence “The consumption of these forestry foods reduces the risk of several ailments like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, etc.” can be shortened to “Consumption of these forestry foods may reduce the risk of ailments such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.”Technical Vocabulary: While the article uses appropriate technical terms, some phrases could be clarified or simplified for a broader audience without losing specificity.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Example: Replace “forestry interventions” with “forest-based activities” or “forest resource collection,” which are more straightforward terms.Consistency in Terminology: Ensure consistent use of terms throughout the manuscript. For example, the terms “forestry food resources,” “forestry foods,” and “forestry resources” are used interchangeably; choosing one term and using it consistently will enhance clarity.Grammar and Syntax: There are a few instances where the grammar or syntax could be improved for better flow and coherence.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Example: The phrase “Forestry food resources are also an indispensable source of health care systems for poor people in rural areas” could be rephrased to “Forestry food resources also play a critical role in the health care systems of rural communities.”Use of Passive Voice: The manuscript contains several sentences in the passive voice, which can obscure the subject performing the action. Using the active voice where appropriate can improve the readability of the text.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Example: Instead of “Data were collected from 185 sample families,” consider using “We collected data from 185 sample families.”Avoiding Ambiguity: Some sentences can be ambiguous or unclear, which may confuse readers. Clarifying these statements will make the article more accessible.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Example: The statement “Forestry food resources constitute a key source of food, nutrition, health care, subsistence, cash income, and safety nets” can be clarified by specifying how these resources contribute to each aspect.Typographical and Punctuation Errors: Review the manuscript for any typographical and punctuation errors that may have been overlooked during the initial writing process. <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Proofreading: A thorough proofreading session by a native English speaker or a professional editor can help identify and correct grammatical errors, awkward phrasing, and inconsistencies.Simplify Complex Sentences: Breaking down complex sentences into shorter, simpler ones can enhance understanding and readability.Consistent Terminology: Define key terms at the beginning of the article and use them consistently throughout to avoid confusion.Active Voice Usage: Where possible, use the active voice to make the writing more direct and engaging.Clarify Ambiguous Statements: Ensure that all statements are clear and precise, providing specific examples or explanations where necessary. <p>By addressing these minor revisions, the article will be better suited for scholarly communication, making it more accessible and engaging for the intended audience.</p>	
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<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Optional/General Comments on Strengths</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive Data Collection: The manuscript's strength lies in its comprehensive data collection, including 185 sample families from various blocks and villages. This approach enhances the representativeness and validity of the findings, making the study a valuable contribution to understanding forestry resource utilization. Diverse and Detailed Findings: The detailed categorization of 37 forestry food resources into various uses such as vegetables, fruits, dyes, and condiments provides a rich and nuanced understanding of the role these resources play in local diets and livelihoods. This diversity of findings contributes to a more holistic view of forestry resource use in the Leh Himalaya. Relevance to Rural Development and Policy: The manuscript effectively highlights the implications of forestry resource utilization for rural development, poverty alleviation, food security, and livelihood sustainability. By linking the study's findings to broader socio-economic and environmental issues, the manuscript offers valuable insights for policymakers and development practitioners. Integration of Traditional Knowledge: The study acknowledges and integrates traditional knowledge of indigenous communities regarding forestry resource use, which adds depth and cultural relevance to the research. This approach not only honors local practices but also provides a foundation for developing sustainable management strategies. Promotion of Conservation and Sustainable Use: By focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of forestry resources, the manuscript emphasizes the importance of preserving these resources for future generations. This forward-looking perspective aligns with global efforts to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship. Clear Presentation of Data: The use of descriptive statistics and clear presentation of data in the manuscript makes it easy for readers to understand the study's findings. The inclusion of tables, figures, or charts could further enhance the readability and accessibility of the data. Broad Applicability: Although the study focuses on a specific region, its findings have broader applicability to other regions facing similar challenges with forestry resource management and food security. This makes the manuscript relevant to a wider audience and contributes to the global discourse on sustainable resource management. Encouragement of Further Research: By identifying gaps in the current understanding of forestry resource utilization and its impact on livelihoods, the manuscript encourages further research in this area. This proactive approach contributes to the ongoing development of knowledge and solutions for rural communities. <p>These strengths make the manuscript a valuable addition to the scientific community, offering insights and practical recommendations for the sustainable management of forestry resources and the improvement of rural livelihoods.</p>	
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PART 2:

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

Reviewer Details:

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