

Review Form 3

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| Journal Name: | Annual Research & Review in Biology |
| Manuscript Number: | Ms_ARRB_128900 |
| Title of the Manuscript: | Assessment of the diversity of endophytic, rhizospheric and soil bacteria using a targeted metagenomic approach in Mali |
| Type of the Article | |

PART 1: 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> |
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| Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aims and methodology are clearly outlined, but the description of steps could be more concise to improve readability. Highlight the significance of the study's findings and their potential applications in agriculture more explicitly. The study design and methodology could benefit from being broken into bullet points or shorter sentences for clarity. This study highlights the microbial diversity in Mali's agricultural soils, with implications for improving soil fertility and crop productivity. Future research could focus on whole-genome sequencing to elucidate functional roles of identified bacteria and their potential applications in sustainable agriculture. Expanding this study to other crops and environmental conditions would further enhance our understanding of microbial ecology in these ecosystems. | |
| Is the title of the article suitable? (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. | It could be improved by adding more specific details about methodology, the significance of results, and potential applications. Highlighting the broader implications of the findings would strengthen the abstract's scientific value. | |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | It is correct but it need to be some improvements | |
| Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. | Yes | |

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| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | No, it should be improve the sentences and check the spellings | |
| Optional/General comments | <p>In Discussion: Suggestions for Improvement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Highlight Agricultural Implications:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discuss the practical relevance of microbial diversity findings for sustainable agriculture, such as improving soil fertility or biocontrol strategies.Integrate Quantitative Measures:<ul style="list-style-type: none">If available, incorporate diversity indices or other metrics to support claims about microbial diversity and richness.Clarify Methodological Impact:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discuss how methodological choices (e.g., selection of primers or database biases) might influence results and interpretations.Strengthen the Conclusion:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Summarize key findings and their broader implications more explicitly. Suggest future research directions, such as experimental validation of bacterial functions or field trials. | |

PART 2:

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

Reviewer Details:

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|---|-------------------|
| Name: | Sunil Kumar |
| Department, University & Country | CCRAS-CARI, India |