

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Food Research and Nutrition
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJFRN_129532
Title of the Manuscript:	ASSESSMENT OF HEAVY METAL CONTAMINATION IN CEREAL AND LEGUME FLOURS: A STUDY OF AWARENESS, IMPLICATIONS, AND HEALTH RISKS IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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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>
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"> This manuscript offers valuable insights to the scientific community by exploring the extent and impact of heavy metal contamination in staple foods such as cowpea flour and maize within Enugu State, Nigeria. This study is significant as it combined laboratory tests and public awareness surveys, the research addresses critical gaps in our understanding of food safety and environmental health in an agriculturally reliant region. The results demonstrate the need for enhanced regulatory policies and greater public awareness, as they underscore the link between industrial activities, such as mining, and food contamination. The study provides a foundation for targeted actions to reduce health risks associated with heavy metal exposure, thereby contributing to broader efforts in environmental health and food security research. 	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	The current title, " Assessment of Heavy Metal Contamination in Cereal and Legume Flours: A Study of Awareness, Implications, and Health Risks in Enugu State, Nigeria, " is informative and appropriate title for the study. However, suggested title like " Heavy Metal Contamination in Maize and Cowpea Flours: A Study of Awareness and Health Risks in Enugu State, Nigeria " could be more concise and still capturing the core focus of the study.	

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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>The abstract provides a good overview of the study, including its aim, methodology, key findings, and conclusions. However, it can be improved for better clarity and completeness.</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include concentrations of heavy metals which exceeded permissible limit in the abstract • Mention how your findings contribute to food safety policies, public health, or environmental health sciences in the conclusion. • Remove vague descriptions, such as "may be attributed to its mineral-rich soil," unless these attribution is conclusively established. 	
<p>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The manuscript appears to be scientifically correct in terms of methodology and analysis. • The combination of field surveys and laboratory analyses provides both qualitative and quantitative data for the study • The manuscript details the sampling, laboratory procedures, and statistical methods (ANOVA and Duncan's test) clearly, which supports reproducibility. • The study addresses relevant issues of public health concern in the study area. <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cite the standards or including a table showing permissible limits by FAO/WHO as referenced in manuscript. • Clarify the exact limits exceeded by arsenic and aluminium to strengthen your discussion. 	
<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 cited in the manuscript are relevant to the study's focus, particularly concerning heavy metal contamination and its impacts.</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more recent references, the number of references cited are limited to capture global research trends on heavy metal contamination in food residues. • Including more recent studies (post-2015) would strengthen the manuscript. <p>Cite more references related to current studies from FAO/WHO</p>	
<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language quality of the manuscript is generally clear and comprehensible.</p> <p>Suggestions for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term like "pretty knowledge" is not a standard academic phrasing. Replace with "basic knowledge" or "limited understanding." • Term like "the rest (96%)" appears informal for Academic Phrasing. Replace with "The remaining 96%" • Terms like "permissible limits" and "acceptable limits" are used interchangeably. Consistency in terminology is critical for scholarly precision. • Standardize capitalization for terms like "Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer" throughout the manuscript. 	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research addresses a vital issue with significant consequences for the fields of environmental health sciences, food safety, and public health: the presence of heavy metals in essential food items. It enhances the understanding of the health risks related to food contamination in Enugu State, Nigeria, as well as other similar regions. • Equally, the study offers actionable recommendations, such as the need for public awareness campaigns and stricter regulatory measures, making it relevant for policymakers and public health practitioners. • Improving the manuscript through comprehensive professional language editing or proofreading would greatly elevate its quality. • The results could be presented more effectively with visual aids (e.g., graphs or charts) to enhance comprehension and engagement. 	

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PART 2:

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

Reviewer Details:

Name:	Stephen Awogbami
Department, University & Country	College of Health Sciences and Technology, Nigeria