

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51878

Date: May 26 2025

**Title:** Sustainable cocoa management and production based on local knowledge in central Cote d'Ivoire

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

**Accept after minor revision**.....

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		X		
Techn. Quality		X		
Clarity			X	
Significance		X		

Reviewer Name: Dr Lakhdar Guerine

**Date:** May 26 2025

This article explores agroforestry practices used by cocoa farmers in the sub-prefecture of Kokumbo, central Côte d'Ivoire, to cope with environmentally challenging conditions for cocoa cultivation. Through ethnobotanical surveys conducted with 102 producers, the study highlights the local knowledge that underpins the viability and sustainability of these farming systems. The findings show that farmers combine various tree species (both local and exotic) with cocoa, primarily use seeds selected based on visual observation, prefer manual weeding, and place high value on the ecological services provided by associated trees. Complex agroforestry systems appear to be more sustainable, requiring fewer chemical inputs and less labor.

### Strengths

- Relevant and locally grounded topic:** The study addresses the sustainability of cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire, the world's leading cocoa producer, within a context of environmental degradation.
- Promotion of local knowledge:** The research emphasizes intergenerational transmission of farmer knowledge and its importance in building resilient agricultural systems.
- Well-structured empirical approach:** Field surveys, direct observation, and floristic inventories provide a robust methodological foundation.
- Socio-environmental relevance:** The article effectively illustrates how traditional practices align with goals such as biodiversity conservation, erosion control, and economic sustainability.

# International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

*www.journalijar.com*

---

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

5. **Strong link to sustainability discourse:** It emphasizes the compatibility between traditional farming practices and sustainability objectives—an important message for agricultural policy development.

### Weaknesses

1. **Lack of advanced statistical analysis:** Data interpretation remains descriptive (averages, percentages) without hypothesis testing or robust correlation assessments.
2. **Limited comparative or regional perspective:** The study focuses only on two localities, without comparisons to other agroecological zones or neighboring countries.
3. **Inconsistent scientific language:** Some parts of the text would benefit from clearer, more standardized scientific phrasing.
4. **Lack of quantitative yield data:** The actual impact of agroforestry systems on cocoa productivity is not quantitatively assessed.
5. **Absence of figures and tables:** The inclusion of synthetic visuals (e.g., graphs, charts, tables) would improve readability and educational value.

### Recommendation: Minor Revision

- Add basic statistical analysis (e.g., correlations, comparative tests across systems).
- Strengthen the scientific structure of the manuscript (clear figure titles, improved formatting, logical transitions).
- Include regional comparisons or benchmark data for broader context.
- Introduce economic discussion points (e.g., yield performance, labor cost, income data).
- Refine the writing style in key sections, especially the discussion and conclusion, for clarity and international academic standards.