

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51878

Date: 28-05-2025

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

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....**YES**.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer's Name: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Abstract and Summary Review:

The abstract effectively summarizes the scope, methodology, and findings of the study. It provides a succinct yet comprehensive overview of the complex interplay between local knowledge, agroforestry practices, and sustainable cocoa production in an ecologically marginal zone. The use of ethnobotanical surveys and floristic inventories demonstrates a multi-layered methodological approach that is well-suited to capturing both qualitative and quantitative dimensions of traditional agricultural knowledge.

The description of farmer practices—such as the use of the Forastero Upper-Amazonian variety, local seed selection based on pod appearance, nursery and flattening techniques, and manual weeding—adds practical insight into local adaptive strategies. The integration of useful trees into cocoa farms underscores the multifunctionality of agroforestry systems and the socio-ecological embeddedness of cocoa production. The abstract ends on a note that aligns local practices with the broader goals of sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and community well-being.

Introduction Review:

International Journal of Advanced Research

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The introduction presents a well-grounded rationale for the study, contextualizing cocoa production within the broader environmental and socio-economic challenges facing Côte d'Ivoire. The historical emphasis on intensive agriculture is linked clearly to current ecological issues, including biodiversity loss and soil degradation. The references to both national and international initiatives advocating for sustainable agriculture strengthen the argument for examining alternative, locally grounded production models.

The transition from general national challenges to the specific regional focus in central Côte d'Ivoire is smooth and logical. The introduction appropriately positions local knowledge as a critical component in developing more sustainable and resilient agricultural practices.

Overall Assessment:

The study is timely and well-structured, with clear methodological rigor and strong empirical grounding. It contributes significantly to the discourse on sustainable agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa by highlighting how indigenous knowledge systems can support biodiversity conservation, ecological resilience, and community development. The integration of ethnobotanical and ecological data provides a holistic understanding of the sustainability of cocoa agroforestry systems in a challenging environment. The work is both regionally relevant and globally resonant, particularly in discussions about local knowledge, climate resilience, and sustainable development in agriculture.