

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52072

Date: 04-06-2025

Title: Socio-economic determinants of the food situation of households in the hunting zones of the national parks of Benin

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: Shafiya Akhter

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

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)
 .

Reviewer's Comment / Report

General Overview:

This study presents a focused and contextually relevant exploration of food security in localized and ecologically sensitive areas of Benin. By examining the food situation in hunting zones adjacent to national parks, the research addresses an under-studied yet crucial dimension of household vulnerability and livelihood sustainability. The methodology, findings, and interpretation offer valuable insights for both academic researchers and policy stakeholders involved in food security, conservation, and rural development.

Abstract and Keywords:

The abstract clearly articulates the scope, methodology, and key findings of the study. It outlines the geographic focus, sample size, methods (including food consumption score and logistic regression), and main results, including prevalence rates and significant socio-economic determinants. The use of precise

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

statistics enhances the clarity and relevance of the abstract. The keywords are well-chosen and reflect the core themes of the paper.

Introduction:

The introduction provides a thorough contextual background on the food security landscape in sub-Saharan Africa, with specific reference to agricultural policy shifts, the role of agriculture in national economies, and global hunger statistics. By citing authoritative sources such as FAO, IFAD, and WFP, the paper builds a credible foundation. The discussion connects macro-level challenges to the micro-level focus of the study, establishing the relevance of exploring food security in hunting zones—a unique setting impacted by both ecological constraints and socio-economic dynamics.

The narrative also situates Benin within broader regional food insecurity trends, reinforcing the study's significance. The linkage between historical policy orientations, current agricultural limitations, and persistent undernourishment strengthens the justification for the research.

Research Focus and Methodological Soundness:

The research objective is well-defined: to analyze the determinants of household food security in specific villages located in hunting zones of two national parks. The purposive sampling strategy and the selection of 144 households are suitable for the study's localized intent. The methodological approach—employing food consumption scores to classify households and logistic regression to analyze determinants—is appropriate and statistically robust for addressing the research question.

The clear distinction between food security levels (secure, at risk, and insecure) and the comparative analysis of the Pendjari and Park W zones provide depth to the findings. The contrast in food insecurity prevalence between these two zones is notable and provides a significant contribution to the geographic understanding of household vulnerability in Benin.

Findings and Interpretation:

The results section effectively presents key insights. The identification of factors such as agricultural credit, subsistence pressure, hunting zone, savings account ownership, number of dependents, and livestock as determinants of food security is both logically and empirically grounded. These determinants reflect the multifaceted nature of food security, encompassing financial access, demographic burden, and economic diversification.

The statistical evidence showing the higher food insecurity in Pendjari compared to Park W adds spatial nuance and suggests potential regional disparities in livelihoods, conservation pressures, or support mechanisms.

Clarity and Organization:

The paper is well-structured, with coherent progression from the problem context through to the methodology and findings. The language is clear, academic, and accessible. Terminology is used

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

appropriately, and references are cited to support key arguments. The narrative maintains a consistent and objective tone.

Relevance and Contribution:

This study contributes meaningfully to the discourse on food security by illuminating the intersection of conservation zones and rural livelihoods—an area that often falls outside the scope of broader national analyses. The findings are relevant for stakeholders involved in rural development, environmental policy, and food systems planning in West Africa.

Overall Assessment:

This is a well-executed and insightful study. It fills a critical gap in the literature by focusing on food security within the specific socio-ecological context of hunting zones in national parks. The paper combines rigorous methodology with grounded contextual analysis, offering valuable data for informing targeted food security interventions and rural support programs.