

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-52274**

Date: June 14, 2025

**Title: GROWTH AND YIELD PERFORMANCE OF RATOON RICE NSIC RC 160 APPLIED WITH SEAWEED-BASED FERTILIZERS UNDER DIFFERENT CUTTING HEIGHTS**

### 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:** June 14, 2025

## Detailed Reviewer's Report

The study investigates the effects of different cutting heights (15, 25, 35, and 45 cm) and seaweed-based fertilizers (Vitalgro carrageenan and fermented Kulapo) on the growth and yield performance of *ratoon* rice (*NSIC RC 160*) in the Philippines. A 4×3 factorial experiment was conducted using a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD). The results revealed that:

- A 15 cm cutting height produced heavier grains and a higher yield.
- Seaweed-based fertilizers did not outperform 75% urea, but fermented Kulapo demonstrated good economic and environmental potential.
- The 15 cm + Kulapo combination achieved the highest return on investment, showing promise for sustainable rice cultivation.

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### Strengths:

- Methodological rigor: Well-designed factorial experiment with solid statistical analysis (ANOVA, LSD).
- Environmental relevance: Promotes local organic biofertilizers for sustainable agriculture.
- Practical outcomes: Offers clear recommendations for farmers.
- Well-structured paper: Abstract, objectives, and interpretation of findings are presented.

### Weaknesses:

- No raw data or tables: Absence of numerical data limits reproducibility and transparency.
- Limited geographic scope: The study is confined to Infanta, Philippines, which affects generalizability.
- Writing style: Occasionally simplistic or overly didactic, unsuitable for high-impact journals.
- Literature review: Broad but sometimes merely descriptive, lacking critical comparative analysis.

### Recommendation: Minor Revision

The paper is potentially publishable in a regional or applied agricultural journal, with the following improvements:

- Enhance the scientific tone and precision of language.
- Include detailed tables of quantitative results.
- Deepen the critical discussion, particularly in comparison to related studies.