

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52370

Date: 21-06-2025

Title: Analyse of the determinants of improving the living conditions of women vegetable farmers in the municipality of Grand-Popo in 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: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: Recommended for Publication.

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

General Overview:

The study addresses a highly relevant and pressing issue in the context of rural development, gender equity, and food security. By focusing on women vegetable farmers in Grand-Popo, Benin, it contributes to the body of knowledge surrounding the socio-economic challenges and opportunities facing rural women engaged in small-scale agricultural production. The work is grounded in empirical research and demonstrates a commitment to understanding local realities through both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Originality and Contribution:

This research offers a localized and specific analysis of the factors influencing the living conditions of a marginalized but essential demographic: rural women farmers. Its originality lies in combining fieldwork with a functionalist analytical framework to explore how systemic and structural variables—such as access to resources, market dynamics, and gender roles—shape the economic outcomes for women in agriculture. The study's attention to intra-community dynamics, such as competition and pricing disparities, adds a nuanced layer of understanding to rural livelihoods.

Methodology:

The methodology is clearly defined and appropriate for the research objectives. The combination of

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documentary research, observation, interviews, and questionnaires ensures a balanced collection of data. The selection of 82 respondents through a reasoned choice approach allows for depth while maintaining representativeness within the constraints of a localized study. The use of functionalism as an analytical lens provides coherence in interpreting how various components of the rural production system interact to affect women's living conditions.

Data Analysis and Findings:

The findings are well-articulated and logically follow from the data collection methods. Key determinants such as limited resources, inadequate financing, and unregulated pricing mechanisms are identified as major factors influencing the economic stability and decision-making power of women farmers. The connection between these determinants and broader patterns of market inequality and gendered labor is convincingly established. The analysis of unfair competition due to non-standardized pricing and production conditions adds a valuable dimension to the study.

Structure and Clarity:

The manuscript is well-organized and clearly written. Both the French and English abstracts effectively summarize the scope, methodology, and findings. The transition from introduction to methodological explanation and then to results is smooth and logical. Technical terminology is used appropriately and consistently, and the narrative remains accessible to readers from various academic backgrounds, including development studies, agricultural economics, and gender studies.

Relevance and Applicability:

This work is particularly relevant for policymakers, development agencies, and NGOs working on rural development, women's empowerment, and sustainable agriculture. Its grounded insights can inform targeted interventions, particularly in improving access to credit, promoting fair market practices, and supporting cooperative frameworks among women farmers. The study also contributes to the ongoing discourse on how structural and social determinants influence economic outcomes in agrarian communities.

Scholarly Merit:

The paper displays scholarly rigor and ethical engagement with the study population. Its empirical grounding, clear articulation of the problem, and contextual relevance underline its academic value. The integration of theoretical perspectives with field data supports a well-rounded discussion that respects both academic standards and real-world applicability.

Conclusion:

This is a thoughtful, empirically grounded, and socially relevant study that sheds light on the determinants influencing the living conditions of women vegetable farmers in Grand-Popo. It contributes meaningfully to rural sociology, development studies, and gender-focused agricultural research.