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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52832 Date: 17-07-2025

Title: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES IN EASTERN BURKINA FASO: THE ROLE OF RESOURCE ACCESS AND FARMER PROFILES

Recommendation:	Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Accept as it isYES	Originality		⋖		
Accept after minor revision	Techn. Quality			৶	
Accept after major revision	Clarity			⋖	
Do not accept (Reasons below)	Significance		⋖		

Reviewer Name: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract Evaluation:

The abstract provides a clear and structured overview of the study, outlining both the contextual background and the research objectives. It accurately identifies land degradation in the Sahel as a driving concern for the adoption of agroecological practices. The study's two-fold aim—examining sociotechnical conditions and evaluating biomass outcomes—is effectively articulated.

The methodology is concisely summarized, including the use of semi-structured interviews and yield quadrat measurements. The two combinations of agroecological practices analyzed are clearly described, which allows the reader to understand the specific interventions being compared.

The classification of farmers into socio-economic classes and the unexpected order of agroecological intensification (where the most affluent were not the most intensive adopters) introduces an important analytical insight. This finding invites further reflection on the relationship between resource availability and agroecological behavior.

The quantitative results concerning herbaceous biomass production are presented with clarity and contextual relevance. The abstract ends with a thoughtful research question that encapsulates the core dilemma—whether economic status determines the depth of agroecological practice adoption.

Introduction Evaluation:

The introduction provides a strong contextual foundation for the study, highlighting the predominance of family farming in sub-Saharan Africa and Burkina Faso in particular. It effectively situates the challenges facing these systems, notably land degradation, soil fertility decline, and low agricultural productivity, all of which underscore the importance of agroecological approaches.

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The historical and socio-economic context is appropriately referenced through credible sources, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the pressures confronting smallholder farmers. The characterization of average farm size and the labor-intensive nature of agriculture in the region sets the stage for examining how and why farmers engage (or fail to engage) in agroecological intensification.

Overall Assessment:

This study contributes meaningfully to the discourse on sustainable agriculture in the Sahelian context. Both the abstract and introduction demonstrate a clear research trajectory, grounded in empirical analysis and sensitive to local socio-economic heterogeneity. The integration of technical, environmental, and socio-economic variables reflects a multidisciplinary approach well-suited to agroecological research. The work raises important questions about equity and access in the implementation of sustainability initiatives, making it valuable for policy-makers, practitioners, and researchers alike.