

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52937

Date: 24-07-2025

**Title:** Vulnérabilité des exploitations agricoles et pratique de la régénération naturelle assistée dans les communes d' Aguié, Chadakori et Azarori au Niger

### 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 Name: Tahir Ahmad

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

### General Overview:

The manuscript provides a well-structured and in-depth study on the vulnerability of family farming systems and the practice of assisted natural regeneration (RNA/ANR) in three communes in Niger. The study is situated within the broader context of agro-sylvo-pastoral resilience in the Sahel, with a particular focus on land use, livelihood sustainability, and agroecological restoration techniques. The integration of socioeconomic and environmental variables offers a comprehensive analysis of farming dynamics in a climate-vulnerable region.

### Acknowledgments Review:

The acknowledgments section appropriately credits the IRD's JEAI initiative and the PRESAF project led by academic staff at Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi. It transparently states the source of funding and institutional support, which reinforces the credibility and collaborative nature of the research.

### Abstract Review:

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The French and English abstracts clearly present the objectives, methodology, and key findings. Both versions highlight the characterization of 549 farms, data on household size, landholding, cropping systems, and the long-standing practice of RNA. The statistical use of hierarchical ascending classification (CAH/HAC) to categorize farm vulnerability levels is clearly described. The constraints to RNA (e.g., tree mutilation, animal roaming, lack of technical knowledge) are succinctly stated, offering a practical outlook on challenges in the field.

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### Introduction Review:

The introduction effectively contextualizes the study within the environmental and demographic realities of Niger. It emphasizes the historical degradation of vegetation cover due to droughts and demographic pressures, and the reliance on the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector for livelihoods. The link between natural resource degradation and food insecurity is clearly articulated, setting a strong foundation for the research focus on assisted natural regeneration and agricultural vulnerability.

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### Scientific and Methodological Content:

- The study covers 15 villages across three communes, ensuring spatial diversity in data collection.
  - A robust sample size of 549 farmers using purposive sampling allows for grounded and detailed analysis.
  - Key socio-economic indicators (family size, active labor force, land access methods, crop systems) are quantitatively and qualitatively analyzed.
  - The use of CAH/HAC adds a rigorous statistical dimension to the classification of vulnerability levels.
  - The study identifies both the ecological benefits and socio-cultural constraints surrounding RNA practices, making the findings highly relevant for policy and development planning.
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### Language and Clarity:

The manuscript is well-written in both French and English. Terminology is precise and appropriate for an academic audience in agricultural and environmental sciences. The narrative is coherent and logically structured, with clear transitions between sections.

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### Keywords:

The keywords selected—*exploitation agricole, caractérisation, vulnérabilité, régénération naturelle assistée*—are appropriate and reflect the core focus of the study.

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### Conclusion of Review:

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## **REVIEWER'S REPORT**

This manuscript represents a valuable contribution to the literature on sustainable land management and agricultural vulnerability in the Sahel. It offers data-driven insights into farming systems and the socio-ecological dimensions of assisted natural regeneration. The study is rigorous, policy-relevant, and situated within an important regional and ecological context.