

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53052

Date: July 29, 2025

**Title:** Assessment of agromorphological diversity of cassava accessions grown in the South Comoe region (South-East) of Côte d'Ivoire

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

**Accept after minor revision**.....

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		X		
Techn. Quality		X		
Clarity			X	
Significance			X	

Reviewer Name: Dr Lakhdar Guerine

**Date:** July 29, 2025

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

*(To be published with the manuscript in the journal)*

*The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.*

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## Detailed Reviewer's Report

## **REVIEWER'S REPORT**

This study assessed the agromorphological diversity of 45 cassava accessions collected from the South Comoe region of Côte d'Ivoire. Based on ten quantitative traits, significant variability was revealed through ANOVA, Principal Component Analysis (74.47% of total variance), and Hierarchical Ascending Classification, which identified four distinct morphological groups. Accessions from Groups 1 to 3 exhibited yields exceeding 20 t/ha, making them valuable candidates for breeding programs. Significant correlations were observed between leaf traits and productivity indicators. The findings highlight the region's rich genetic diversity, likely enhanced by the continuous exchange of cuttings among growers.

### **Strengths :**

1. The topic is highly relevant and addresses important agricultural challenges in the region.
2. Robust methodology using well-established statistical tools (ANOVA, PCA, HAC).
3. Clear presentation and structuring of results into meaningful morphological groups.
4. Statistically sound results, with coherent biological interpretation.
5. Recent and well-targeted references, particularly from the West African context.

### **Weaknesses:**

- a) The manuscript requires thorough academic English revision (syntax and style).
- b) The discussion section is mostly descriptive and lacks deeper analytical insights.
- c) No maps, photos, or illustrations are included to support geographic or phenotypic context.
- d) The link between observed diversity and farming practices is underexplored.
- e) Genetic diversity is discussed but not supported by molecular or genomic data.

### **Recommendation : Minor revision**

Comprehensive English language editing and a more in-depth analytical discussion