

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53052

Date: 31-07-2025

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 (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract Review:

The abstract provides a well-defined overview of the study, clearly establishing cassava's significance to Côte d'Ivoire and the relevance of the South Comoe region as a key area for varietal exchange and cultivation. The purpose of the study is well articulated, and the methodology is succinctly presented, including the number of accessions and the use of ten quantitative traits. The findings are concisely summarized, with mention of ANOVA and PCA revealing phenotypic diversity, and hierarchical classification identifying four distinct morphological groups. The practical implication—that three of these groups offer high-yield potential—provides a meaningful conclusion to the abstract. Overall, the abstract is scientifically sound and effectively summarizes the study's aims, methods, and findings.

Keyword Review:

The keywords are relevant and appropriately chosen. They reflect the main themes of the study—"Cassava," "agromorphological diversity," "South Comoe," and "Côte d'Ivoire." They contribute to the article's discoverability in relevant research domains.

Introduction Review:

The introduction contextualizes cassava within global and regional agricultural systems. It successfully emphasizes the crop's global importance and particularly its significance in Côte d'Ivoire, where it ranks second among food crops. The quantitative data from sources like FAOSTAT and regional consumption estimates strengthen the introduction's factual grounding. References to cassava's processed products, such as *attieke* and *placali*, also emphasize its cultural and economic value. The geographical and socio-agronomic relevance of the South Comoe region is implied, laying the groundwork for a deeper exploration of genetic and morphological diversity. The tone is appropriate, and the background provided supports the research rationale.

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General Observations:

The research is clearly framed within the field of plant genetic resource assessment and agronomy. The study shows scientific rigor through its use of established statistical methods (ANOVA, PCA, HAC) and a structured evaluation of phenotypic traits. The integration of both quantitative analysis and practical implications (yield-related traits) demonstrates the applied value of the findings. The writing is academically precise and logically sequenced.

Overall Assessment:

The article presents a valuable contribution to the understanding of cassava diversity in a region critical to its cultivation and distribution in Côte d'Ivoire. The abstract and introduction align effectively, both in content and focus. The study is well situated within global and local agricultural frameworks and offers findings that are relevant to food security, crop improvement, and sustainable agriculture initiatives in West Africa.