

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53762

Date: 12-09-2025

Title: Impact of Climate Smart Resilient Practices on Enhancing Sustainable Agricultural Productivity. Case study of Rice, Cocoa and Oil Palm Value Chains Development.

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.

Overall Evaluation

This paper presents an important and timely study on the adoption and impact of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices in Sierra Leone's Bo District. The topic is highly relevant to food security, climate adaptation, and sustainable agriculture. The manuscript demonstrates a thorough literature review (lines 140–225) and provides a clear context of the problem (lines 81–129). However, the paper ends abruptly at line 236 and requires completion and some refinements in organization, language, and references.

Major Comments

1. Incomplete Manuscript

- The paper stops mid-sentence at line 236 (“...for selected value chains (IVS-rice,”). Ensure that the methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion sections are fully included.

2. Abstract (lines 4–31)

- Well-structured but can be tightened to ~200 words.

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

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- Line 8: “agricultural productivity through climate smart agricultural practices for selected value chains” could be rephrased for clarity (e.g., “to evaluate the impact of climate-smart agricultural practices on selected value chains”).

3. Organization & Headings

- Inconsistent heading numbering: e.g., “1. INTRODUCTION” (line 32) followed by “1.1 Problem Analysis” (line 81) and “1.2 Aim and Objectives” (line 130). Consider formatting these consistently (e.g., 1.0 Introduction, 1.1 Problem Analysis, 1.2 Aim and Objectives).
- Add clear sections for Methodology, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion once the text is complete.

4. Grammar & Style

- Several long sentences could be split for clarity (e.g., lines 48–52, 140–147).
- Correct minor typos:
 - Line 40: Remove extra parenthesis after “Lipper et al. (2014),”
 - Line 135: “cocoa” → “cocoa”.
 - Line 183: “application, comparable” → “application; comparable”.

5. Citations & References

- Many references (e.g., lines 37–47, 154–191) need full bibliographic details and consistent formatting (APA/Chicago).
- Ensure all in-text citations appear in a reference list at the end, and vice versa.

6. Data & Analysis Details

- Provide information on sample size, sampling method, and data analysis techniques (lines 226–236).
- Clarify how quantitative and qualitative data will be integrated.

Minor Comments

- Line 29: “provided that financial, institutional, and policy support systems are strengthened to scale adoption” could be tightened for conciseness.
- Lines 121–124: Consider adding how cultural norms and risk perception will be measured.
- Line 227: Briefly describe each community’s relevance (Njeikohun, Kambawama, Kalia) to the study.

Strengths

- **Comprehensive Literature Review:** Covers global and regional CSA perspectives with extensive references (lines 140–225).
- **Policy Relevance:** Addresses urgent climate adaptation issues for Sierra Leone.
- **Practical Focus:** Links CSA adoption to livelihoods, yields, and resilience.

Summary Recommendation:

The manuscript offers valuable insights into climate-smart agriculture but requires completion of the methodology, results, and conclusion, plus careful editing and reference formatting. With these revisions, it will make a strong contribution to research on CSA and sustainable agriculture in West Africa.