

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54886

Date: 21.11.2025

Title: APPORT DES CULTURES FOURRAGRES A L'ALIMENTATION BOVINE EN ZONE PERIURBAINE DU DISTRICT DE BAMAKO

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: **ANAPANA GOPAL**

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

1. General Comments

This study provides a detailed and valuable assessment of **fodder crop practices among agro-pastoralists in the peri-urban areas of Bamako, Mali**. It explores demographic characteristics, motivations, fodder species, feeding practices, conservation techniques, and farm management. The topic is relevant for improving bovine productivity in West African peri-urban livestock systems, where pressure on natural pastures is increasing.

The manuscript is rich in descriptive data, but the text is extremely long, repetitive in several sections, and lacks analytical depth. The writing would benefit from Minor language editing, restructuring, and clearer organization of results. Tables and figures are present but not always well integrated into the narrative.

Overall, the study has practical importance, but the manuscript needs substantial refinement for readability and scientific rigor.

2. Content and Originality

Strengths

- Focuses on an under-documented topic: **fodder crop adoption in peri-urban livestock systems of Bamako**.
- Provides detailed field data from 84 agro-pastoralists across five axes.
- Presents useful descriptive statistics on fodder species, feeding practices, milk production motivation, land acquisition, and farm structures.
- Valuable insights into local realities (labour constraints, rainfall variability, land pressure).

Limitations

- The study is mostly descriptive; analytical interpretation is limited.
- No statistical tests were performed to compare axes or examine relationships.
- Some results are anecdotal (e.g., "observed during field visits") rather than systematically measured.
- Quantities of fodder harvested are reported as estimates, reducing scientific robustness.

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- The discussion relies heavily on long descriptive comparisons rather than analytical evaluation or theoretical framing.

Overall originality: Moderate. The topic is important, but the analysis could be strengthened.

3. Technical Quality

Strengths

- Clear methodology for sampling, data collection, and field surveys.
- Use of SPSS for data analysis is appropriate.
- Tables and graphs support the findings.

Concerns

- Many graphs and tables lack units, captions, or numerical clarity.
- Some values (e.g., Table 3 quantities) are unrealistic or inconsistent (10 to 240,000 kg).
- Some language indicates subjective observation rather than quantitative measurement.
- The methodology describes a “descriptive study,” but the text includes methodological details inconsistent with standard academic structure.
- Figures/photos are included, but their relevance to analysis is not clearly explained.

The technical quality is acceptable but needs improvements in **data accuracy, presentation, and methodological explanation.**

4. Language and Presentation

This is the **most problematic area.**

Issues observed

- Very long sentences with frequent grammatical errors.
- Repetition of ideas in multiple sections.
- Inconsistencies in French spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and spacing.
- Some English parts of the abstract contain grammatical and syntactic errors.
- The manuscript is unnecessarily long and includes digressions (e.g., detailed descriptions of labourer payment, motorbike transport, etc.).
- Figures and photos interrupt the flow.

A full **linguistic and stylistic revision is necessary.**

5. Structure and Organization

Strengths

- Follows standard structure: Title → Abstract → Introduction → Methods → Results → Discussion → Conclusion → References.
- Logical arrangement of results by themes.

Weaknesses

- Introduction is too long with extensive background that could be summarized.
- Methods contain excessive detail not relevant for scientific appraisal (e.g., geographic description too lengthy).
- Results section is extremely long and includes narrative explanations mixed with observations.
- Some subsections are misnumbered or duplicated.
- Discussion is minimal and does not fully interpret the results or connect them to broader literature.
- The conclusion section repeats the abstract and lacks strong synthesis.

The manuscript requires **Minor restructuring for clarity, conciseness, and scientific coherence.**

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6. References and Citations

Strengths

- References are relevant, mostly regional studies and veterinary/agro-pastoral literature.
- Appropriate use of local studies from Mali.

Concerns

- Citation style inconsistent (missing accents, inconsistent punctuation, some references merged).
- Some references are incomplete (e.g., Diarra et al., year missing).
- Not formatted according to any standard referencing style (APA, Vancouver, Chicago, etc.).
- Footnotes are not used; all citations are in a list only.
- Some literature cited in the text is not listed in the references.

A **full standardization of references** is needed.

7. Overall Recommendation

Recommendation: Minor Revision

The study is valuable and relevant for livestock systems and fodder production, but the manuscript requires:

- Language correction and rewriting
- Restructuring for coherence
- Better presentation of results
- Removal of unnecessary descriptive passages
- Improved citation style
- More analytical discussion

Once revised, it will contribute meaningfully to regional agricultural research.

8. Final Decision

Decision: Accept with Minor Revisions

Detailed Reviewer's Report