

**REVIEWER'S REPORT**

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 55440

Title: ANALYSE DE LA RENTABILITE ECONOMIQUE DE L'EXPLOITATION DE TROIS LEGUMINEUSES FOURRAGERES DANS LA ZONE PERI-URBAINE DU DISTRICT DE BAMAKO

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision

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

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The article examines the economic profitability of cultivating three forage legumes—cowpea (niébé), mucuna, and dolichos—in the peri-urban zone of the Bamako district. Positioned within the broader context of rapid urbanisation, rising demand for milk and meat, and increasing pressure on livestock feed resources, the study addresses a highly relevant problem for agro-pastoral systems in West Africa. By focusing on farm-level operating accounts, the paper offers an applied economic analysis that is directly useful for farmers, extension services, and policy planners concerned with peri-urban livestock sustainability.

One of the manuscript's principal strengths lies in its clear empirical orientation and methodological transparency. The authors explicitly describe the study area, sampling strategy, period of investigation, and analytical tools used to calculate production costs, operating results, and economic profitability rates. The use of standard FAO-recommended economic indicators such as operating result, cost per kilogram of forage, and rate of economic profitability lends credibility to the analysis. The detailed presentation of

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operating accounts for each crop and production axis, supported by well-structured tables, allows readers to clearly follow the cost–benefit logic underlying the results.

The findings are presented in a systematic and convincing manner. The study demonstrates substantial variation in profitability across both forage species and production axes. Cowpea emerges as the most economically viable forage, particularly in Niokona, where low production costs and strong market demand result in exceptionally high profitability rates. Dolichos is shown to be moderately profitable, while mucuna exhibits weak economic performance despite its agronomic advantages. This differentiation between agronomic potential and economic viability is an important contribution, as it highlights the need to evaluate forage crops not only on biological performance but also on market conditions, labour requirements, and input costs.

The discussion section is another strong aspect of the manuscript. The authors effectively contextualise their findings by comparing them with earlier studies from Mali and other parts of West Africa. References to FAO reports and regional research on forage systems strengthen the external validity of the conclusions. The discussion also appropriately emphasises the role of agroecological conditions, labour availability, and market proximity in shaping profitability, thereby avoiding simplistic generalisations.

Despite these strengths, the manuscript presents several limitations that should be addressed to enhance its scientific quality. First, the sample size is relatively small, with detailed operating accounts established for only four agro-pastoralists. While the exploratory nature of the study is acknowledged, a more explicit discussion of the implications of this limited sample for generalisation would strengthen methodological rigor. Second, the analysis remains largely descriptive. Incorporating simple comparative statistical measures or sensitivity analysis (for example, variations in input prices or forage prices) would significantly enhance analytical depth.

In terms of structure and presentation, the manuscript would benefit from editorial refinement. There are instances of repetition, minor grammatical inaccuracies, and formatting inconsistencies in tables and headings. Additionally, while figures are informative, their interpretation could be more tightly integrated into the analytical narrative. The conclusion, although relevant and well aligned with the results, could be strengthened by more explicitly outlining policy and extension implications for forage promotion in peri-urban systems.

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Overall, the article makes a useful applied contribution to the literature on forage economics and peri-urban livestock systems in West Africa. Its findings are practically relevant, empirically grounded, and clearly presented, making it suitable for publication in an agricultural economics, livestock systems, or rural development journal.

Recommendation: The manuscript is recommended for publication after minor revisions, primarily focusing on (i) strengthening the methodological discussion, (ii) tightening the analytical narrative, and (iii) improving language and formatting consistency.