

**REVIEWER'S REPORT**Manuscript No.: **IJAR-55446**

**Title: PROFITABILITY AND DETERMINANTS OF SESAME PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN CHAD: AN ANALYSIS FOR STRATEGIC PROMOTION**

**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: **Dr.P.Manochithra*****Detailed Reviewer's Report*****Manuscript Title**

**Profitability and Determinants of Sesame Production in Southern Chad: An Analysis for Strategic Promotion**

**General Assessment**

The manuscript examines the economic and financial profitability of sesame production in Southern Chad and identifies its key socio-economic, institutional, and technical determinants using farm-level survey data and econometric analysis. The topic is **timely, policy-relevant, and aligned with current debates on agricultural diversification, rural livelihoods, and cash-crop promotion in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

The study is empirically rich, methodologically sound, and clearly written. The integration of profitability indicators with an OLS-based determinant model strengthens the analytical contribution. The sample size is robust, and the findings have **direct policy relevance** for agricultural development planning in Chad.

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However, the manuscript requires **moderate revisions** to improve clarity, methodological rigor, consistency in presentation, and academic precision before it can be considered for publication.

**Recommendation****Major Revision****Strengths of the Manuscript**

1. **Strong empirical foundation:** A large sample (459 producers) across two agricultural seasons enhances reliability.
2. **Clear policy relevance:** The findings directly inform strategies on input access, credit, producer organizations, and market infrastructure.
3. **Integrated analytical framework:** Combining profitability analysis with econometric determinants is a key strength.
4. **Well-structured results and discussion:** Tables are informative and interpretations are largely coherent.
5. **Use of recent and relevant literature,** including FAO, World Bank, and peer-reviewed journal sources.

**Major Comments****1. Title and Scope**

- The title is appropriate and informative.
- However, the phrase “*Strategic Promotion*” could be clarified by briefly indicating **whose strategy** (policy makers, farmers, institutions) in the introduction.

**Suggestion:**

Clarify the strategic angle explicitly in the introduction (policy, institutional, or value-chain perspective).

**2. Abstract**

- The abstract is informative and well structured.

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- However, it is **slightly long** and includes policy recommendations that could be more concise.

**Suggestions:**

- Reduce redundancy.
- Clearly separate: **objective – methods – key findings – implications**.
- Mention the **OLS model assumptions or robustness checks** briefly.

**3. Introduction**

- The introduction is comprehensive and logically developed.
- The research gap is clearly stated.

**Concerns:**

- Some background paragraphs are lengthy and descriptive.
- Citations are occasionally clustered without critical synthesis.

**Suggestions:**

- Reduce repetition related to African agriculture challenges.
- Strengthen the **novelty statement** by explicitly stating how this study differs methodologically or geographically from prior sesame studies.

**4. Materials and Methods****4.1 Sampling and Data Collection**

- Sampling strategy is well explained and justified.
- Cochran's formula is appropriately applied.

**Minor issue:**

- Inconsistency in year reporting (e.g., "2023–2014").

**Suggestion:**

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- Correct typographical errors in survey years throughout the manuscript.

### 4.2 Profitability Indicators

- Definitions of NM, GM, BCR, IRR, and ANLP are clear and well referenced.
- Use of family labour valuation is commendable.

#### Concern:

- The IRR formula is simplified and may be confused with return on investment.

#### Suggestion:

- Clarify that the IRR used is a **proxy profitability ratio**, not a discounted cash-flow IRR.

### 4.3 Econometric Model

- OLS is appropriate given the continuous dependent variable.
- Diagnostic tests (VIF, Breusch-Pagan, robust errors) strengthen credibility.

#### Concerns:

- Possible **endogeneity** (e.g., access to credit and improved seed adoption).
- No discussion of potential **selection bias**.

#### Suggestions:

- Acknowledge endogeneity as a limitation.
- Suggest alternative approaches (e.g., IV or propensity score matching) for future research.

### Results and Discussion

### 5. Descriptive Statistics

- Clear and informative.
- Socio-economic profile aligns with regional realities.

**REVIEWER'S REPORT****Minor improvement:**

- Compare descriptive statistics briefly with similar studies in neighbouring countries.

**6. Profitability Results**

- Results convincingly demonstrate profitability.
- Interpretation of NM, BCR, and ANLP is accurate.

**Suggestion:**

- Explicitly discuss **risk and price volatility** alongside profitability to avoid overly optimistic conclusions.

**7. Econometric Results**

- Model fit (Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> = 0.58) is satisfactory.
- Key determinants are logically interpreted.

**Concerns:**

- Significance levels in Table 3 are inconsistently marked.
- Non-significant variables deserve a more concise explanation.

**Suggestions:**

- Standardise significance notation.
- Avoid over-interpreting insignificant coefficients.

**8. Constraints Analysis**

- Well-structured and clearly ranked.
- Strong linkage between qualitative perceptions and quantitative findings.

**Suggestion:**

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- Include a short paragraph linking constraints directly to proposed policy interventions.

### 9. Comparative Analysis (Adopters vs Non-Adopters)

- This section is a **major contribution**.
- Clear evidence of technology-driven profitability gains.

#### Suggestion:

- Clarify that causality cannot be fully inferred due to observational data.

### Conclusion and Policy Implications

- Conclusions are consistent with results.
- Policy recommendations are relevant and actionable.

#### Suggestions:

- Avoid repetition of numerical results.
- Add a short subsection on **study limitations and future research directions**.

### Minor Comments

- Correct typographical and formatting errors (spacing, year ranges).
- Ensure consistency in abbreviations (e.g., NM, GM, BCR).
- Improve figure and table captions for standalone readability.
- Check referencing style consistency (journal abbreviations, DOIs).
- Ensure all in-text citations appear in the reference list and vice versa.

### Overall Verdict

The manuscript is **methodologically sound, empirically rich, and policy-relevant**. With revisions addressing methodological transparency, clarity, and minor presentation issues, it will make a **valuable contribution to agricultural economics and development literature**.

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