

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55703

**Title:** Évaluation de la disponibilité et des pratiques d'utilisation des sous-produits (sons, cosses et fanes) du soja en alimentation animale dans les régions de Maradi, Dosso et Niamey (Niger).

### 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.

#### General Comments

The manuscript addresses an important and timely topic: the availability and utilization of soybean by-products in animal feeding systems in Niger, a Sahelian context characterized by recurrent feed shortages. The study is grounded in a large field survey (n = 637) across three key regions (Maradi, Dosso, and Niamey), which strengthens its empirical relevance. The paper provides valuable baseline data for policymakers, development projects, and researchers interested in livestock nutrition, climate resilience, and circular agriculture. However, the manuscript would benefit from methodological clarifications, improved synthesis of results, and language refinement to enhance its scientific rigor and international readability.

#### Content and Originality

The study demonstrates good contextual originality, particularly by focusing on soybean by-products (fanés, cosses, sons) rather than conventional feed resources. The integration of production, transformation, and utilization perspectives is a strong point and contributes novel insights into local feed systems in Niger. While similar studies exist on cowpea and cereal residues, the emphasis on soybean under climate-resilient agricultural projects (CSAT and REDSAACC) adds originality.

However, originality would be further strengthened by:

Explicitly contrasting findings with previous studies in neighboring Sahelian countries.

Highlighting what is new beyond descriptive statistics, such as implications for productivity or resilience.

#### Technical Quality

The technical approach is generally sound:

The use of a cross-sectional survey and Cochran's formula for sample size determination is appropriate.

Data handling using SPSS and Excel is adequate for descriptive analysis.

Nevertheless, some technical limitations should be addressed:

The justification for using only descriptive statistics is not clearly stated.

No inferential analysis is provided to test associations between variables (e.g., region, storage practices, or feeding methods).

Some variables (e.g., animal performance outcomes) are discussed conceptually but not measured empirically.

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Clarifying these aspects would significantly improve methodological robustness.

### Language and Presentation

The manuscript is written in clear scientific French, but several issues affect readability:

Minor grammatical inconsistencies and typographical errors are present.

Some paragraphs are overly long and could be condensed.

Redundancies occur between the Results and Discussion sections.

Figures and tables are informative but could be improved by:

Standardizing figure captions and formatting.

Reducing the number of pie charts where tables may suffice.

A careful language editing by a professional or native academic French editor is recommended.

### Structure and Organization

The paper follows a logical and conventional structure (Introduction, Methodology, Results, Discussion, Conclusion). The methodology and results sections are detailed and transparent. However:

The Results section is very long and sometimes descriptive to the point of repetition.

The Discussion section could better synthesize findings instead of restating results.

Clear sub-headings linking results to specific objectives would enhance clarity.

Improved balance between Results and Discussion would strengthen the manuscript.

### References and Citations

The reference list is extensive and relevant, drawing on regional, institutional, and international sources. Citations are generally appropriate and up-to-date for the study context. However:

Some references are quite old and could be complemented with more recent peer-reviewed articles.

Citation formatting should be standardized according to the target journal's guidelines.

A few in-text citations would benefit from clearer linkage to the statements they support.

Overall, the bibliography supports the study well.

### Overall Recommendation

The manuscript has high applied value for livestock development, feed security, and climate-resilient agriculture in West Africa. It is particularly suitable for journals focusing on:

Animal production systems

Agricultural development

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Sustainable livestock feeding

Sahelian or tropical agro-ecosystems

With moderate revisions, the paper has strong potential for publication and citation within regional and applied research communities.

### Final Decision

Recommendation: Minor to Moderate Revision

The manuscript is publishable after revision. Addressing the following key points is advised before acceptance:

1. Improve language clarity and reduce redundancies.
2. Strengthen the Discussion by deeper analytical comparison with existing literature.
3. Clarify methodological choices and limitations.
4. Improve figure/table presentation and consistency.

Once these revisions are implemented, the manuscript will make a valuable contribution to the scientific literature on animal nutrition and agricultural sustainability in Niger and similar contexts.