Review of: "The Contribution of Subsistence Agriculture to the Livelihoods of the Smallholder Farmers in South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

1. Research topic: Not very innovative as it's a given that subsistence is for own food production. It would have been interesting maybe to consider:

From Subsistence to Commercialization: Strategies for Smallholder Farmers in South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo to Overcome Land Size Constraints and Improve Their Livelihoods through Sustainable Agricultural Practices

After reading through the whole script, research gap not really coming out. What value will this research add so given the big sample size am sure the above could be addressed to improve the thrust of the Manuscript

1. Abstract

Logistic regression missing in the abstract, yet it was used in analysis

There is a need to rewrite the sentence for some good flow "How the socioeconomic status attained by the farmers influenced their sustainable livelihoods was also assessed."

Could be combined with the preceding sentence to:

A total of 303 smallholder farmers were randomly selected and interviewed to investigate the impact of subsistence agriculture on their socioeconomic status and its subsequent effects on their sustainable livelihoods.

1. Some sentences could be combines in the abstract "Data were analyzed using means, frequency distribution, correlation, ANOVA and Chi square test. Thematic analysis was done on qualitative data."

Why maybe not include and thematic analysis in the first sentence.

1. There is no need of specifying significant values (p and F values) in the abstract. That is relevant in the discussion in the results section so kindly remove. Just highlighting that it was significant is enough for abstract

There was a significant difference in the yields of crops grown ($F = 0.0088$; $P = 0.05$), while education and income status significantly affected the farmer's socioeconomic status by practicing subsistence agriculture ($P < 0.05$). An average mean value of 3.12 for the components of the farmers' livelihoods were exhibited, with the human capital mean value being highest (4.16) compared to natural, social and financial capital. The socioeconomic status attained had a significant effect

on sustainable livelihoods of the farmers at $P < 0.05$.

1. Study Area: Since its about smallholder farmers relying on agriculture, author can highlight the climate in the area (rainfall amounts annually, temperatures) , dominant soil types, seasons to show to what extend they support agriculture. Main crops and livestock for the region can also be highlighted
2. Results

Table 3 could be done by income status since this is what was later used in the chi square

Table 6 has some discord: Dependent Variable: sustainable livelihood, yet in the description, you highlight that the dependent variable was socio-economic status. There is a need to provide detail on how you constructed the socio-economic variable. Other variables like household headage, education, farming experience, access to markets, access to extension services can also affect that variable and should be considered in the regression equation.

1. Only include cited articles in the reference list. Examples of articles appearing in the reference list yet not cited in the text are the following:

Dillman, D. A. (2000). Mail and internet surveys: the tailored design method (2nd ed.). Dilworth (ed), "Intelligibility in Science." Amsterdam: Rodopi, pp. 123-144

Kremen, C., Iles, A., & Bacon, C. (2012). Diversified farming systems: an agro-ecological, systems-based alternative to modern industrial agriculture. Ecology and Society 17(4): 44.

Kuiper, M., Meijerink, G., & Eaton, D. (2006). Rural Livelihoods: Interplay Between Farm Activities and the Resource Base. International Association of Agricultural Economists Annual Meeting August 12-18. At Gold Coast, Australia

Kwembe, U. & Guy B. (2006). The problem of poverty of the rural and urban agricultural households in the vicinity of the city of Kishasha. An attempt of analysis of the phenomenon and its implications on food security. Louvain-la-Neuve: Ciaco.

Makala, N. P. (2009). Public policies and management of the agricultural sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Kimpres, Kinshasha, DRC.

Marmot, M. (2004). The Status Syndrome: How Social Standing Affects Our Health and Longevity. New York: Owl Books.

Mbuyamba, F. (2011). The determinants of the adoption of improved varieties of cassava. South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Check all references. Above, I just randomly picked to check.