

Paper: “Determinants of Tree Growing and Cover Retention in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas of East Africa: The Case of Machakos County, Kenya”

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Peer review:

Reviewer 1: Dhouha Saidana
Institute of Olive Tree, Sousse Station, Greece

Reviewer 2: Sanogo Kapoury
World Agroforestry (ICRAF), Mali

ESJ Manuscript Evaluation Form 2023

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Reviewer Name: Kapoury SANOGO	
University/Country: World Agroforestry (ICRAF) Mali	
Date Manuscript Received: 15/02/2023	Date Review Report Submitted:
Manuscript Title: Determinants of Tree planting and cover retention in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas of East Africa: The Case of Machakos County, Kenya	
ESJ Manuscript Number: 099/23	
You agree your name is revealed to the author of the paper: Yes	
You approve, your name as a reviewer of this paper, is available in the “review history” of the paper: Yes	
You approve, this review report is available in the “review history” of the paper: Yes	

Evaluation Criteria:

Please give each evaluation item a numeric rating on a 5-point scale, along with a thorough explanation for each point rating.

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Rating Result</i> [Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]
1. The title is clear and it is adequate to the content of the article.	3
The title is focused on Determinants of Tree planting in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas of East Africa: The Case of Machakos County, Kenya. I didn't see any section focused on tree cover. I suggest removing tree cover from the title.	

2. The abstract clearly presents objects, methods and results.	3
There is a need to provide more information about the target respondents (profile), they are farmers? Etc. The sample including how many women (missing in abstract). The number of focus group is missing in the abstract. The number of the key informants is also missing in the abstract	
3. There are few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article.	4
Right, there are some grammatical errors throughout the manuscript	
4. The study methods are explained clearly.	3
<p>The study methods are fairly explained. The authors did not explain why they choose only men. The number of focus group discussion are not clearly indicated in the paper as well as the number of key informants also missing in the manuscript. The main activity of the focus group is not articulated in the paper. The number of samples investigated in each sub location is not clearly stated in the paper.</p> <p>How the sample was selected, no information about this.</p> <p>In the methods section there are no information about the focus of the interview during the data collection, which parameters were collected during the interview?</p> <p>Data analysis: Hosmer & Lemeshow: year is missing. Which software was used for data analysis? missing in the MS.</p>	
5. The results are clear and do not contain errors.	3
<p>In the results, the authors mentioned that 57% of the respondents were male, while 43% were female, but this information is missing in the methods sections.</p> <p>The results are clear, but some information is still missing. For instance, types of species (indigenous and exotic) find over the farmland, the density. The species are in farm for which purpose? The results ne be more discussed.</p>	
6. The conclusions or summary are accurate and supported by the content.	4
The conclusions are accurate and support the results.	
7. The references are comprehensive and appropriate.	5
The reference is comprehensive and appropriate	

Overall Recommendation (mark an X with your recommendation) :

Accepted, no revision needed	
Accepted, minor revision needed	X
Return for major revision and resubmission	
Reject	

Comments and Suggestions to the Author(s):

The methos section needs to be completed with the missing informations.

The MS need to be checked for grammatical errors.

I suggest to the authors the following title: **“Determinants of Tree planting in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas of East Africa: The Case of Machakos County, Kenya”**

All the above comments should be addressed in order to improve this MS.

Comments and Suggestions to the Editors Only:

The paper is well writing, and it's read easily however, it can be accepted after a minor revision.

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Reviewer Name: Dhouha SAIDANA	
University/Country: Institute of Olive Tree, Sousse Station	
Date Manuscript Received: 13/2/2023	Date Review Report Submitted: 17/02/2023
Manuscript Title: Determinants of Tree planting and cover retention in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas of East Africa: The Case of Machakos County, Kenya	
ESJ Manuscript Number: 99/10/2022	
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You approve, your name as a reviewer of this paper, is available in the “review history” of the paper: Yes	
You approve, this review report is available in the “review history” of the paper: Yes	

Evaluation Criteria:

Please give each evaluation item a numeric rating on a 5-point scale, along with a thorough explanation for each point rating.

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Rating Result</i> [Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]
1. The title is clear and it is adequate to the content of the article.	4

Yes	
2. The abstract clearly presents objects, methods and results.	3
<i>There are informations only cited in the abstract: The major tree species included Eucalyptus saligna, Grevillea robusta, Mangifera indica, Persea americana, Croton megalocarpus, and Terminalia brownie. These informations should be cited in the results also.</i>	
3. There are few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article.	4
<i>Errors are mentioned in the text</i>	
4. The study methods are explained clearly.	3
Yes	
5. The results are clear and do not contain errors.	3
<i>Authors don't consider the Farm size as significant result despite $p= 0.005$. In the table 3.2. the table legend is missing B?:; S.E.: ?; Wald: ?; df: ?; Sig:?:; Exp (B): ?.</i>	
6. The conclusions or summary are accurate and supported by the content.	3
Yes	
7. The references are comprehensive and appropriate.	2.5
<i>The references are not well conformed to ESJ instructions</i>	

Overall Recommendation (mark an X with your recommendation)

Accepted, no revision needed	
Accepted, minor revision needed	X
Return for major revision and resubmission	
Reject	

Comments and Suggestions to the Author(s):

Authors are needed to correct the suggested modifications.

Comments and Suggestions to the Editors Only:

Thank you very much for confidence.