Paper: **"Drivers, Barriers, and Impact of Digitalization on Sustainable Rural Development, Focusing on Some Regions of Albania"**

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Peer review:

Reviewer 1: Tumaini Steven Thomas
Open University of Tanzania, Tanzania

Reviewer 2: Innocent Maduekwe
University of Abuja, Nigeria

Reviewer 3: Blinded

Reviewer A:
Recommendation: Accept Submission

The TITLE is clear and it is adequate to the content of the article.
The title covers the issue discussed in the text : Drivers, barriers and impacts of digitalization on sustainable rural development in Albania.
The ABSTRACT clearly presents objects, methods, and results.
The authors represent object and methodology of the research – the purpose of this paper is to examine the drivers, barriers and impact of digitalization, on the performance of agricultural farms and the sustainable development of the rural sector in our country. In function of the purpose of the study, the questionnaire was designed to collect information from the farmers (interviewers). Based on the data of INSTAT and MARD, for the dominant activities and typology of farms, 938 questionnaires were completed with farmers for the regions selected in the study. The data were analyzed and processed with the SPSS program, in accordance with the purpose and research objectives of the study.
The abstract doesn't includes the study results.
There are a few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article.
There are grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article, that must be corrected.
The study METHODS are explained clearly.
In accordance with the purpose of the study, primary data have been collected from the completion of questionnaires with farmers as well as secondary data published by national and international institutions. The methodology used for this paper is based on the collection, processing, analysis and interpretation of data and statistical indicators, focusing on the drivers, barriers and impact of digitalization on sustainable rural development in Albania. Based on the objectives of this study, the methodology is structured to provide a comprehensive analysis, combining quantitative and qualitative research approaches.
Based on the data of INSTAT, (2023) for the dominant activities and the typology of farms, the questionnaires were completed face to face with farmers for the five regions selected in the study. In total, 938 questionnaires were filled out. After completing the questionnaires, the data were processed and analysed with the SPSS program.
The body of the paper is clear and does not contain errors.
The body of the paper is clear and does not contain errors.
The CONCLUSION or summary is accurate and supported by the content.
The conclusions is supported by the content – The results show that the process of digitalization of small farms is slow and faces significant challenges, such as limited digital skills of farmers, lack of resources to implement technologies and motivation to adopt digital technologies.
Based on the data collected in this study, digital technologies in agriculture is perceived positively by all interviewed farmers. Digitization can help farmers to optimize production processes and have better access to market sales, increase productivity and improve resources and efficiency on their farms.
Digital platforms facilitate interaction and collaboration among farmers and other

stakeholders along the agricultural value chain. Digitization and innovative technologies promote sustainable rural development by providing farmers with advanced equipment and technology and better resource management in agriculture. Stakeholders, such as government, universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), can play an important role by providing training for farmers to use digital technologies in their activities. Cooperation between government institutions, businesses, international organizations, researchers, academic institutions is very important for addressing challenges, designing strategies, sharing knowledge and experiences, and promoting of best practices for digitization in the rural sector and etc.

The list of REFERENCES is comprehensive and appropriate.
The references are presented at the appropriate level.

Please rate the TITLE of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
5

Please rate the ABSTRACT of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
4

Please rate the LANGUAGE of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
5

Please rate the METHODS of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
5

Please rate the BODY of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
5

Please rate the CONCLUSION of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
5

Please rate the REFERENCES of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
5

Overall Recommendation!!!
Accepted, minor revision needed

Comments and Suggestions to the Author(s):
There are grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article, that must be corrected. Also, abstract must be corrected and added results of the study.

Reviewer B:
Recommendation: Revisions Required

The TITLE is clear and it is adequate to the content of the article.
I am ok with the Title but I'm sure the study is not covering the whole of Albania's rural areas to avoid bias and generalisation, the paper should also tell us the target area
The ABSTRACT clearly presents objects, methods, and results.
The function of an abstract is to describe, not to evaluate or defend, the paper. The abstract should begin with a brief but precise statement of the problem or issue, followed by a description of the research method and design, the major findings, the conclusions reached and if possible the recommendation (Please rework the abstract to give a test to the readers

If something is performing, it is most likely to sustain (I suggest you reduce the repetition of the words and keep a few words to the maximum of 5 keywords. Examples include agriculture, precision, and sustainability. Technology, drivers
There are a few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article.
About their farm activities, it will sound better if it read about their farming activities
The study METHODS are explained clearly.
A good methodology section for a manuscript explains the research process, including the methods used, the data collected, and the analysis performed. It should also explain why the chosen methods are appropriate for the research questions and how they fit the research design
Please repeat this section
The body of the paper is clear and does not contain errors.
Language and reference errors need to be improved
The CONCLUSION or summary is accurate and supported by the content.
A good conclusion section for a manuscript summarises the paper's main points and highlights the research's significance. It should be concise, usually one paragraph, and avoid introducing new information. Remind the reader of the main point of the paper. However, avoid repeating the same words as in the introduction
The list of REFERENCES is comprehensive and appropriate.
Ok
Please rate the TITLE of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
4

Please rate the ABSTRACT of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
3

Please rate the LANGUAGE of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
3

Please rate the METHODS of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]

3

Please rate the BODY of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
4

Please rate the CONCLUSION of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
4

Please rate the REFERENCES of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
4

Overall Recommendation!!!
Accepted, minor revision needed

Comments and Suggestions to the Author(s):
Relax , take time to work on the comments to improve your documents
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Reviewer C:
Recommendation: Accept Submission

The TITLE is clear and it is adequate to the content of the article.
The title is clear but it is not adequate to the content of the article because some
concepts are not included.
The ABSTRACT clearly presents objects, methods, and results.
The abstract did not clearly present the objective, methods and results. See the article
There are a few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article.
Editorial work is needed.
The study METHODS are explained clearly.
The study methods are not explained clearly
The body of the paper is clear and does not contain errors.
The body of the paper is clear but the arrangement of the sections are not clear.
The CONCLUSION or summary is accurate and supported by the content.
The conclusion should follow the result and be clearly presented
The list of REFERENCES is comprehensive and appropriate.
The list of references is comprehensive but not consistence. See number 10 and 11
Please rate the TITLE of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
4

Please rate the ABSTRACT of this paper.
[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]
3