

GUIDELINES FOR A GOOD PUBLICATION AT AFRICAN JOURNAL OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND DEVELOPMENT (AJFAND)



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Sometimes authors write their research work for publication that come short purely not due to their poor work but wrong expression and presentation. AJFAND is a multifaceted journal that affords researchers a wide field of study in food, agriculture, nutrition and development. These fields are synonymous and rather intertwined, a fact that makes them elicit very interesting and exciting research subjects. It is in fact right to say that everything in the world revolves around food. Let's see how interesting and expansive food issues are;

Literal world talks of '*food for thought*'

Which came first, *the egg or the chicken*? Aren't they all food!

Do we live to eat or eat to live?

KEY AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

- ❖ **Thematic areas.** AJFAND has its scope of the themes that researchers can base their work on. Authors should stick to such and appropriately streamline their subjects to cover the necessary structure. Agriculture and food are very wide areas and authors can always coin topics and research lines within it to effect brilliant sets of results.
- ❖ **Proper and relevant research project** that seek to improve what is already available for readers. Exact repetition of works done before feels like piracy and copycat endeavour that goes against the scientific work ethics and

integrity. Tweaking of research work is however allowed so as it comes out with unique revelations and interesting findings, important for readers.

- ❖ **Real results.** Authors should discuss their results as they are and including important negative results. One should boss his/her results since they are the ones who did the work and can justify themselves. Always, negative results attract interesting attention and unique reviews by readers and are mostly a useful follow up research subjects.
- ❖ **Grammar.** Authors should use simple, well-articulated grammar devoid of jargons for easy understanding. Well written articles are widely read and quoted since some readers' first language is not English. This is even more so in open access journals like AJFAND. Proper tense in the right sections is crucial e.g. past tense in the methodology and results.
- ❖ **Personal views and opinions.** Authors must avoid giving a lot of personal opinions and views that cannot be verified by findings or literature when discussing their results. That makes the research look speculative or rather appear like *scientific gossips*.
- ❖ **Criticism.** Authors should avoid a lot of criticism of other writers' works even if the results do not fully agree with their previous findings. Unless one is doing a comparative study, over quoting/referencing does not help the course and only makes the work a mere review piece. The write up should be brief, precise, relevant and necessary at its most.
- ❖ **Ethics and integrity.** Acknowledgement of other people's work is key and a must by authors. Ethical certificates for the researchers that involve vulnerable groups must be provided to authenticate the work done. More often, some authors forget that very important bit leading to rejection of their work however impacting and significant it is.

PUBLICATION ARTICLE OUTLINE

Abstract

Include the research focus, methods used, key results and findings highlights and main conclusions and recommendations.

Introduction

This entails the definition of why the research is being done. It includes the technical goals and objectives, the main technical issues and application in the real world appropriately. Authors should touch on the motivation for the project

and outline clear purpose statement. Again this should be limited to the journal requirements in terms of wording and planning.

Methodology

Briefs on the study specimen or object (plant, human, animal etc.). Study site description if it is important for the readers is necessary. Experimental design or sampling design (controls, treatments, variables etc.). Data collection protocol and criteria used (questionnaire, focus group discussions etc.). How data was analysed (software used, statistical tests etc.).

Results

Logical sequence should be followed where use of tables and figures is necessary. Following the sequence in the text with tables and figures is important. Reporting key results with tables and figures augments the flow.

Discussion

Same logical sequence should be followed as in results. Relating one's work with previous work avoiding dwelling too much on the latter is important. No new results should be introduced in the discussion.

Acknowledgement

They should be kept few, brief and never flowery with important contributors appearing.

References

References should be managed and planned well according to the stipulations of the journal.

REMEMBER:

Good writers are not those who go for perfection, but those who seek continuous improvement.

The sky is not the limit, mind-set is the limit. By Pius Mathi

***Pius Mathi is one of our best junior reviewers.**

He is witty, enthusiastic and insightful.

We requested him to put this piece together after he addressed AJFAND reviewers' forum in Nairobi. We value you Pius and wish you a great future.

ED. AJFAND.