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Guide for Reviewers: Special Edition on Community Food Security

This guide for reviewers provides information and basic considerations to be taken into account while reviewing a manuscript that has been submitted to this special issue on Community Food Security for 'The International Journal for Biodiversity Watch'. Submitted manuscripts are usually reviewed by two or more experts. Peer reviewers will be asked to recommend whether a manuscript should accepted with major revisions, accepted with minor revisions, or rejected. They should also alert the editors of any issues relating to author misconduct such as plagiarism or unethical behavior.

We will forward the manuscript only after the initial screening by editorial office. Reviewers are asked to provide detailed, constructive comments that will help the editors make a decision on publication and the author or authors improve their manuscript. A key issue is whether the work has serious flaws that should preclude its publication, or whether there is simply more data or evidence needed to back up their claims. Wherever possible, reviewers should provide references to substantiate their comments. Please provide examples on how to improve than just pin pointing. Please also make sure that you provide specific line numbers/paragraph number and section name while making comments.

Reviewers should consider all the following questions when reviewing articles. In addition, please refer to the guidelines for authors to ensure contributors are following suggested format and contain all the necessary materials.

General Guidelines:

1. Does the paper directly address the topic of Community Food Security?

All papers for this special edition must focus on the concept of Community Food Security by falling within the following list of themes; community-based initiatives, policies, and practices that demonstrate effective reconciliation of local food security and biodiversity conservation, local innovations within community food security or food sovereignty with special reference to local and indigenous communities facing agricultural and ecological challenges, case studies on the role of women in maintaining community-based food security, issues and initiatives focused on revitalization of small-scale farming system by local and indigenous communities in forest regions,

issues and challenges faced by socially-economically marginalized and indigenous communities in meeting their local food security and nutritional needs and ensuring sustainable future, local and Indigenous agriculture management systems as sustainable food production systems, community based initiatives demonstrating effective and sustainable agriculture land-use (production) by local and indigenous communities, indigenous Agrarian movements for achieving community food security, critical review and analysis of recent legislative or policy changes on local community-based food security sovereignty, vision, perspectives, challenges and experiences of community-based and indigenous governance models to community food security, case studies on social and transformative learning for community-based food security, local cultural and customary practices, indigenous knowledges and values and community-based conservation initiatives that focused on local food production, processing, and consumption, lessons learned from the international experiences on partnership projects on community-based security, issues, challenges and perspectives on protection of traditional rights of access, harvesting, production, consumption and marketing of local food resources, issues and innovations in marking value chains while securing community-based food security.

2. Is the research question posed original, important and address the gaps in literature or community practice / policy?

The research question posed by the authors should be clearly identifiable and easily understood. It is useful to both the editors and authors if reviewers comment on the originality and importance of the study within the context of its field. If the research question is unoriginal because related work has been published previously, please give references and provide rationale. Reviewers should ask themselves after reading the manuscript if they have learnt something new to the knowledge/ practice of community food security and if there is a clear conclusion from the study.

3. Can the writing, organization, content of the paper be improved?

Although the editorial team may also assess the quality of the written English, please do comment if you consider the standard is below that expected for a scholarly publications. If the manuscript is organized in such a manner that it is illogical or not easily accessible to the readers please suggest specific improvements with examples, wherever possible. Manuscripts that do NOT follow the suggested structure in the Authors Guidelines MUST be rejected. Please provide feedback on whether the data presented in the most clear and logical manner, methods used are sound and addressed all the research questions posed; for example, long description on facts and figures can be better presented in the Table form.

Does the entire paper follow recognized APA formatting guidelines?

Please consult the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University for up to date APA format guidelines at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

4. Are there any ethical or competing interests issues you would like to raise?

The study should adhere to ethical standards of scholarly research and the authors should declare that they have received ethics approval and or consent of the participants for the study, where

appropriate. Whilst we do not expect reviewers to delve into authors' competing interests, if you are aware of any issues that you do not think have been adequately addressed, please inform the editors.

Detailed Guidelines and questions for specific types of papers

A. Research Articles

Original contributions based on empirical, scientific, community-based research with **less than 10 000** words including Tables, figures and list of references. For research articles there should be approximately 6 main sections:

1) Introduction

Do authors provide adequate back ground information on the topic and clear picture on the importance of the topic by positioning the topic in larger context of key literature (at least 2-3 themes of literature identified)?

Do they provide a clear description that establishes need for the research (problem statement)?

Do they outline key gaps (literature, community practice, policy) that the paper will address?

2) Clear Aim/purpose statement

Do authors provide (maximum) three inter-related and specific research objectives/research questions?

Does the aim and purpose present an appropriate relevant research question related to community food security?

3) Critical review of literature

Does the author provide an extensive overview of key and related literature to their study?

If there are conflicting theories or opinions on a topic, does the selection of literature cover a vast array of opinions or perspectives on the topic as opposed to one view?

Is the literature organized in least 3 themes/categories as they relate to the research questions/objectives?

Do the authors indicate clear gaps in past literature?

4) Research methods

Do authors provide a description on selected approach (design), strategies and methods/approaches/tools of investigation and provide well-grounded and or practical justification for selection of design, strategy and methods?

Do methods appear sound and appropriate for the specific research questions/objectives of research?

Was ethics approval obtained where necessary and indicated as such?

5) *Findings and Discussion*

Are findings organized in a logical manner and addressed all the research questions?

Are any outliers, extenuating factors or limitations and their influences on the findings explained?

Does the author connect findings to earlier literature review, either to refute or confirm earlier findings?

6) *Conclusions and Implications*

Does this paper contribute significant new knowledge to the field of community food security?

Do the authors outline clear set of suggestions for future study or action based on their research?

Do the authors revisit their initial research questions and address any other concerns or issues?

B. Review Papers

These include original contributions which are reviewing published papers and other peer-reviewed publications in the field of community food security **with less than 5000 words**.

1) *Introduction*

Do the authors give a brief background of the theme/category being reviewed with recognition of all original authors?

Do the authors give a brief summary of the central idea/argument and its relevance to community food security?

2) *Critical Review and Reflection of Content*

Does the author address any theoretical and methodological issue and concerns?

Does the author provide a clear, concise, logical, unbiased critique and commentary of the content of the item under review?

3) *Conclusion and Implications of these findings*

Does the author provide meaningful insights into the purpose of their review?

Does the commentary enrich understanding of the item under review and present opportunities for further research or conversation?

C. Commentaries

These are short scholarly pieces of **less than 3000 words** based on critical reflection of contemporary community-based food security issue or regional or national policies that affect community food security issues.

1) *Introduction*

Does the author define the item (bill/policy/legislation) and how it connects to one or any of the themes of community food security?

2) *Literature Review*

Does the author provide background surrounding and brief explanation of the justification and cause for creation with specific mention of at what point the legislation is at? (i.e currently being debated, recently passed, recently implemented etc.)

Does the author include an assessment of scholarly debate (with relevant examples and data from secondary peer-reviewed sources) that documents historical progression and impacts of policies/practice/legislation on communities of a given region/community?

3) *Reflection and Commentary*

Does the author provide critical commentary on the contents of the item and outline its potential impact?

Does the author use data and examples from the past literature to support their arguments rather than expressing opinions surrounding the expected outcome of the item?

4) *Conclusion and Recommendations*

Does the author address the importance of their perspective and analysis?

Does the author directly answer how their commentary enhances understanding of existing dimensions of community food sovereignty or provide new ideas that can inform, enrich or transform existing policies/community practice related to community food security?

When submitting your review please

Upon completion of your review please submit all your notes and edits to shaileshuwinnipeg@gmail.com with a copy to rseburn@gmail.com . We expect to complete the peer-review process **within 12 days** and will provide decision along with comments/feedback from peer-reviewers and editors. Therefore we ask reviewers to please submit their edits promptly and complete in a timely manner. We will acknowledge the names of all reviewers in this issue.

Thanks very much for your help with this special issue.