



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJAEES_19745
Title of the Manuscript:	Cost Efficiency of Rice Production in Vietnam: An Application of Stochastic Translog Variable Cost Frontier
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	- I recommend author to check manuscript by using language editing service or native English. Such as first sentence of abstract doesn't have verb; An Giang province or Thoai Son district not An Giang Province, Thoai Son District; estimated and compared (52); line 84 doesn't need ":"; line `98 should have ",: after pesticide. - Author may need to add implication or suggestion to the end of Abstract part. - Type of citation and reference does not correct as Journal guidelines. Please revise carefully. For example, in the text, citations must be indicated by the reference number in bracket only [6] however, such as line 34,39,46,48 author used both name and number in bracket. In references list, many proper nouns like Vietnam (lines 321, 323,344) or Japan (line 337) author used lower case letters for the first letter, it should be changed to upper case. Please rewrite them for consistence. Line 121 doesn't have citation for Young's theorem. Line 174 also doesn't have citation for the decision of Prime Minister. - Why does author used two separate step to estimate cost efficiency and its determinants while many researches used one-stage simultaneous estimation approach (Battese& Coelli, 1995)? Could author explain more?	- First, thanks you so much for your intellectual comments. Hiring English editing services is very expensive to me. Moreover, these mistakes are minor and the readers can understand and follow our approach. Please accept this situation. Regarding your suggestions about English use, I already edited them. - I already put one sentence at the end of abstract as the study implication - Regarding to reference style, I already checked and this is the suggested style when we would like to emphasize on the authors' names that we cited. I already capitalise the first letter proper nouns like Vietnam and Japan. I did not include the citation for Young's theorem because of its common use. Please consider and accept this. - Actually, there are two ways to estimate cost efficiency: one-stage and two-stage, but we preferred two steps because it do not assume more restrictions on the model. The one-stage procedure need to test the independence of exogenous variables (the variables affect the deviation of output from the frontier (technical inefficiency)) over the dependent variable and assume that



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	- Methodology part focused mostly to explain stochastic frontier analysis and cost efficiency but none described Tobit model even it has been used in second step. - Lines from 125 to 161 are needed? I may think that this explanation and figure are used in many researches so far and it not differ from your research. Do you need to rewrite it again? - Author may have some discussions for the result of cost efficiency (3.1) - I think that the words in parentheses line 268 should follow the end of sentence line 271. Is table 4 supported information for your exogenous variables? - Table 4 is not sufficient description. I may think that author should add more details and unit for all variables. I did not normally see this combination in table. - Please check lines 278-279, table 4 shows that <i>Eco</i> and <i>Sesource</i> had insignificant effects however author said they are significant at 10% level. - OM6796 is insignificant at any level but author said it is significant (288-290) - Author stated that transportation cost is high (296-297), could author have the more information in detail? Does it include in Miscellaneous cost variable?	these variables have the relationship with the inefficiency term. These assumptions were complicated in case of translog form and particularly translog variable cost. Moreover, the former assumption was violated in our model. In addition, to ensure the power of rejecting the null hypothesis, it is necessary to consider the numbers of variables in the model and the sample size based on the formula proposed by Carmen et al. (2007) and Green (1991) (i.e., $N > 50 + 8m$, where N is the sample size and m is the numbers of variables). Based on this formula, our sample size of 199 is not appropriate to use one-stage estimation. In addition, according to Reinhard et al. (2000), there is the trade-off between adding more variables and suffering more multi-collinearity. - The methodology part we focused much on how to estimate cost efficiency but not Tobit regression because the cost efficiency is the main objective of our manuscript. Moreover, Tobit regression is the simple method, the results are the same OLS if no observed values is censored. We thus skipped this and reserved for other interesting points. - We understand that the information from 125 to 161 was already mentioned in many papers but our further objective is to generate the holistic picture for a wide range of target readers in order to
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		be easily reduplicated. Our target readers includes those who really do not know or just start to use this approach. Please accept this figure. - Regarding Table 4, we tried to combine both descriptive statistics of independent variables and coefficients from Tobit regression because these will help the readers easily to know the structure of data (standard deviation and mean), the unit of each variable and marginal effects as well. We think this table provide enough information for the readers. Please accept it. - Regarding Eco and Sesource, please the reviewer check it again because we wrote these variables had positive but insignificant effects - Regarding to the variable OM6976, we made the mistake to interpret this insignificance. We already edited. - The transportation was considered as a portion of energy cost, which of course was included in miscellaneous cost.
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	- Line 187 needs the exchange rate time. - Check the format type line 228 - "the" and "data" are not part of World Bank (21) , author also did not write this citation in correct form and not include in reference list - References 7 (322), 9 (339) is written in English or Vietnamese? If Vietnamese, please add information as guidelines of Journal. - What is edition of ref 23 (373-373)?	I already revised my manuscript based on your instructions.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		