



SDI Review Form 1.5

PART A:

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	MS: 2012/AJEA/1609
Title of the Manuscript:	Optimum Combination of Selected Food Crops and Livestock Enterprises in Aba Agricultural Zone of Abia State, Nigeria: A Linear Programming Approach.

(Note: Title of different sections as proposed below may differ in case of review paper)



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PART B: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part and write here 'Corrected'/ if not agreed, give suitable justifications)
General comment:	The paper addresses a current topical issue in the area of study, however, the problem could not be said to be satisfactorily handled by the authors.	Based on the revision on the manuscript the issue raised has been handled.
Specific comments:	The authors need to pay more attention to issues raised. There is the need to make the data to be more robust. The present method of data collection is either not sufficiently explained or not appropriate.	Stratified random sampling method was used and has been reported in the revised version.
Title and abstract	Suggested title is "A Linear Programming approach to food crop and Livestock enterprises planning in Abia State of Nigeria."	The topic has been remodified to capture the suggestion except that it cannot be for Abia State as the study did not cover the other two Agricultural zones in Abia State.
Introduction (Is the problem/objective of this study original, important and well defined?)	The author(s) have not cited any known work in the area similar to this. The study objective, however, needs to come much earlier in the work than it is presently mentioned under methodology (lines 70 – 77)	No known work on linear programming has been done in Abia State. Given that background to the study to introduce the work given the nature of LP, we do not feel that the position of the objectives is a major issue.
Are all the references cited relevant, adequate? Are there any other suitable current references authors need to cite?	All the cited references are relevant. However, only three of these could be said to be current i.e. within the last three years. Author(s) is(are) expected to update the literature.	Given the comment afore-mentioned, the currency of literature could be appreciated. This work has contributed to current literature on the area that would be quoted subsequently.
Materials & methods (Kindly comment on the suitability of the methods. Sufficient details of the methods should be provided to allow peers to evaluate and/or replicate the work)	How many stages were used in the sampling? How many blocks do we have in the zone? How many circles do we have per block? How many ADP zones do we have in Abia? Can we conclude that the 30 sampled farmers represent the state made up of different ecologies? The sampling procedure needs to be well explained to convince anybody reading this manuscript. The author(s) mentioned that they were guided by the Extension Agents in selection of respondents. The sampling then could not be said to be random.	The stages have been elucidated in the revised version.
Results & discussion (Kindly comment on: 1. Are the data well controlled and robust? 2. Authors should provide relevant references during discussion. 3. Discussion and conclusions should be based on actual facts and figures. Biased claims should be pointed out. 4. Are statistical	What do we mean by the mean and variances of sex, marital status and education? Is the mean farm size for a category of farmers in Abia State or of all the categories of farmers? Is this work on small scale farmers or all the farmers? Is the unit of analysis farmers or farming households? How are the crop farms and livestock owned by	The mean and variance were computed using the standard formular. Even though they are not very relevant to the study they were reported for uniformity in terms of all the socioeconomic



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analyses must for this paper? If yes, have sufficient and appropriate statistical analyses been carried out?)	the individuals or households? It is logical to know the existing plan before the optimum (see line 168 of the manuscript). How were the resource constraints derived Answers to these questions have implications on the results, How were the enterprises also measured e.g. the fish, the poultry etc were measured in what? Except for the similarity in analytical tools employed, there may be no justification for comparing the works of Tanko and Baba 2010 with this work given the differences in the ecology of the study areas.	characteristics. The mean farm size is for an average farmer in the zone, ie Aba Zone in Abia State and not the State.
Are there any ethical or competing interest issues?		
Conclusion (Is the conclusion supported by the data, discussed inside the manuscript? Conclusions should not be biased and should be based on the data, presented inside the manuscript only)		
References	All the references cited except "World Bank (1992) line 52 were referenced.	World Bank (1992) omitted has been acknowledged appropriately.