Cover letter

Dear Editor,

I am submitting an original research article titled "Beyond farm resources: Entrepreneurial and behavioral determinants of profit efficiency in paddy farming" for consideration in *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. I'm the first and corresponding author, Dr Paul Mansingh J is the second author, Dr Saravanan Raj is the third author, Dr. R. Venkattakumar is the fourth and Dr. Kossi Ayenagbo is the fifth author.

This manuscript fits *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* by extending conventional farm-efficiency analysis beyond production and socioeconomic characteristics to incorporate farmers' entrepreneurial and behavioral capabilities. By integrating stochastic profit frontier estimation with multidimensional behavioral indicators, the study provides a farmer-centered explanation of heterogeneity in profit efficiency. Its findings connect farmer decision-making, resource allocation, market engagement, and profitability, offering system-level implications for extension, institutional support, and sustainable farm management.

We are confident that our manuscript aligns well with the *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications'* commitment to publishing high-quality Quantitative approach research across Agricultural fields. This research respects the ethical requirement supported by the ethical Approval certificate.

We agree to the following statements:

- All authors have read and approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to the *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*.
- We confirm that neither the manuscript nor any parts of its content are currently under consideration or published in another journal.

We are confident that our manuscript meets the rigorous standards of the *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* and would be a valuable addition to the literature.

Authors profile verification proof:
Dr. Ihou Atsu Frank Yayra (https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=59303973300) and
Dr. Paul J. Mansingh (https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=58814222800) from https://vit.ac.in/agricultural-extension-and-agricultural-economics
Dr. Saravanan Raj (https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=58115174800) from https://www.manage.gov.in/facultystaff/faculty/saravanan.asp
Dr. R Venkattakumar (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dr-Venkattakumar-R) from https://naarm.org.in/ourteam/dr-r-venkattakumar/
Dr. Kossi Ayenagbo (https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=57904396400) from https://univkara.tg/personnel/dr-ayenagbo-kossi/

Ethical compliance statement:

"This study was conducted in accordance with the ethical requirements for research involving human participants established by the Institutional Ethical Committee for Human Studies, Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, India. Ethical approval was granted under approval reference VIT/IECH/2025/16 IECH/8 February 2025/30 on 3 March 2025. The study involved questionnaire-based data collection and did not include experimental interventions. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents before data collection. Respondents were informed of the study's objectives and the intended use of their data, and measures were taken to protect their anonymity and confidentiality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ihou Atsu Frank Yayra
Assistant Professor – Agri-Business Managment
Vellore Institute of Technology

Institutional Ethical Committee for Human studies

A proposal entitled "The Influence of Farmers' Entrepreneurial Mindset and Intention on the Profit and Economic Efficiency: The Case of Paddy and Groundnut Farmers in Tamil Nadu" with application VIT/IECH/2025/16 IECH/ 8 February 2025/30 submitted by PI: Dr. Paul Mansingh J, Professor, VIT School of Agricultural Innovations and Advanced Learning, VIT, Vellore, and Co-PI: Mr. Ihou Atsu Frank Yayra (22PHD0457), Ph.D. scholar, VIT School of Agricultural Innovations and Advanced Learning, VIT, Vellore, to the Institutional Ethical Committee for Human studies was reviewed at the meeting held on 8 February, 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Sivakumar.

The following members were present at the review:

Name of the member	Affiliation
Dr. S. Sivakumar	Chairperson
Dr. Pragasam Viswanathan	Member Secretary
Dr. Rajesh N. G.	Member (Medical)
Dr. C. P. Girish Kumar	Member (Non-medical)
Dr. Kalaiselvi	Member (Non-medical)
Dr. N. Aravind Yuvaraj	Member (Medical)
Dr. Prasanna Samuel	Member (Biostatistics expert)
Dr. Nagaraju Gundemeda	Member (Sociology expert)
Mr. Venkatesan Kuppusamy	Member (Layperson)
Mr. M. R. Ravishankar	Member (Legal expert)
Dr. S. Sreeja	Member (Non-medical)

After deliberation, the Institutional Ethical Committee for Human Studies, VIT University, requested the applicant to revise the application with suggested changes. The revised application was reviewed on 3 March, 2025 and the committee has approved the proposal. Please note that the approval is subject to the following conditions. The failure to meet the following conditions may result in the termination of the study.

Terms of approval:

1. The study has been approved for a term of one year. If an extension is required, please apply for extension with justifications and summary of findings.
2. Any adverse event must be reported to IECH within 24 hours and a detailed report on the same should be submitted within 7 days.
3. IECH approval must be obtained for any change or amendment to the protocol.
4. IECH shall monitor the study at any time during the approved term.

Member Secretary, IECH

VELLORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY School of Bio Sciences & Technology (SBST) Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India