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Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJAEES_39355
Title of the Manuscript:	Nexus between Household Asset Base and Agrarian Livelihood Strategies' Diversification: Using Multidimensional Approach
Type of the Article	

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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	This is an interesting study. However, it needs minor revisions as follows: INTRODUCTION - It needs very minor language editing with the correct use of tenses. For example - o Line 31 – delete 'focused' - o Line 55 – delete 'series' CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK - Some claims need citations. See for example lines 65 -68. Knowledge claims need to be supported by references. - In line 77, the authors mention that the "...asset categories are admittedly a little contrived..." This implies that there is an alternative conceptualisation that needs to be embraced to counter this weakness. Several studies have been done to counter the weaknesses of the sustainable livelihood framework. The authors need to discuss such. Analytical Procedures and Econometric Models - Line 188 – 189 needs a citation Conclusion - It is the weakest section of the paper. It needs major revision in terms of content and language. Align it to the research objective and results. Recommendations should match with the findings.	We agree with the reviewer and corrected each of the indicated errors as follows. INTRODUCTION Line 31- 'focused', and Line 55- 'series' are deleted. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK Line 65-68 supported by references as [1, 3, 13] Line 77... The theoretical literature, in fact, suggests a number of alternative conceptual and analytical frameworks to analyze rural livelihoods in general and livelihood diversification strategies as a part constituting sustainable rural livelihoods. Nevertheless, none of the available frameworks are free from limitations. For instance, though the sustainable livelihood framework [5, 29, 45] provides a better option, it has its own shortcomings. It is often criticized for its static feature [1, 6] and the aforementioned asset categories are admittedly a little contrived, and not all resources that people draw upon in constructing livelihoods fit neatly within them. Line 188-189 supported by references as [19, 22] Conclusion and Policy Priorities: This part is totally rewritten as follows. The analysis in the previous sections show that smallholder farmers' livelihood diversification is dependent on a range of household asset bases and endowments. The results indicate that greater diversification is associated with possession of better livelihood capitals. We identified four main sets of asset dimensions determining livelihood diversification, namely factors related to social capital, the human capital, the physical capital and agricultural resource endowments. The most instrumental of all of the asset dimensions of the smallholders is their social ties like friendships, memberships to local institutions, linkages, neighborhood activities, and self-help groups. Social capital results in both direct and indirect income gains, accesses to information, employment opportunities, goods and services for the agrarian communities. This finding suggests the need to promote rural social networks as a strategy to enhance livelihood strategies' diversification. The second set of asset dimensions determining livelihood diversification relates to human capital comprising of labor, health, education, and skills. Capacitating the agrarian households through educating more household members and enhancing access to good education and health is essential in facilitating and sustaining diverse income portfolios to the farmers. Equipping them with training and skills would help them gain effective and diversified livelihoods. Third, we found strong evidence that physical facilities including



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		rural infrastructures like electrification, pure water access, functional health posts, and furnished housing conditions with basic facilities producer goods are likely to foster diversification into both on-farm and non/off-farm businesses. Finally, the results have shown that basic endowments of smallholder like land, livestock, oxen (as traction power) and inputs for agricultural investment have significant influence on the household livelihood diversification status. Policy-makers should keep in mind that enhancing the asset-base of rural farm households merits special attention, and a strong focus in development policy should be placed on those household asset dimensions to facilitate smallholder livelihood diversification. These are policies aimed at building up the smallholder households' assets, to develop the physical and natural environment so that smallholders get independent ownership rights over land and other resources, and participate in social processes. Active intervention of GOs and NGOs is needed to assist communities and households, particularly in building up rural livelihood assets.
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		