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This manuscript has been previously reviewed at another Nature Portfolio journal. This document only contains reviewer comments and rebuttal letters for versions considered at Communications Earth & Environment.

18th Dec 23

Dear Dr Wildemeersch,

Your manuscript titled "Risk-Adjusted Strategies to Protect Food Supply and Farmer Livelihoods in West Africa" has now been seen by our reviewers, whose comments appear below. In light of their advice we are delighted to say that we are happy, in principle, to publish a suitably revised version in Communications Earth & Environment under the open access CC BY license (Creative Commons Attribution v4.0 International License).

We therefore invite you to revise your paper one last time to address the remaining concerns of our reviewers. At the same time we ask that you edit your manuscript to comply with our format requirements and to maximise the accessibility and therefore the impact of your work.

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We hope to hear from you within two weeks; please let us know if you need more time.

Best regards,

Martina Grecequet, PhD
Associate Editor,
Communications Earth & Environment
@CommsEarth

REVIEWERS' COMMENTS:

Reviewer #1 (Remarks to the Author):

I have provided a referee report on an earlier version of this submission, and the authors have duly prepared an itemization of the changes they have carried out in response to those comments. I am pleased to confirm that they have satisfactorily incorporated my feedback.

My evaluation of this paper is that it offers insightful analyses of the mechanisms that can prove helpful in seeking to mitigate food shortages. There are admittedly additional phenomena that could be considered in the analysis (e.g., correlations in the weather patterns of neighboring regions). Yet introducing such a level of detail could detract from the paper's readability whilst it could prove challenging to validate such more detailed models (in fact, the eventual food shortages may depend on how (un)stable the political situation in West Africa remains, during the last four years, there have been seven military coups in Central and West Africa; yet such developments are practically impossible to predict).

Against this background, I recommend that this paper be accepted for publication essentially "as is"; but in preparing their final version of the paper, they may wish to clarify the positioning of their work relative to those uncertainties that their model does not capture.

Reviewer #4 (Remarks to the Author):

The authors have satisfactorily addressed my comments and feedback, and I have no further comments at this stage.