|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Book Name: | [**Current Research Progress in Agricultural Sciences**](https://www.bookpi.org/bookstore/product/current-research-progress-in-agricultural-sciences-vol-1/) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_BPR\_4972** |
| Title of the Manuscript:  | **Morphological Variation in Normal Maize Landrace Accessions Collected from South Sudan** |
| Type of the Article | **Book Chapter** |

**Special note:**

**A research paper already published in a journal can be published as a Book Chapter in an expanded form with proper copyright approval.**

**Source Article:**

**This chapter is an extended version of the article published by the same author(s) in the following journal.**

**Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, 11(1):15~24, 2023.**

**Available:** [**https://doi.org/10.9787/PBB.2023.11.1.15**](https://doi.org/10.9787/PBB.2023.11.1.15)

|  |
| --- |
| PART 1: Comments |
|  | Reviewer’s comment**Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | Author’s Feedback *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | I found that this research is useful for the scientific community, particularly for plant breeders and geneticists, as it documents the phenotypic diversity of South Sudanese maize landraces, highlighting their genetic richness and adaptability. By providing detailed morphological characterizations, it aids in selecting desirable traits for breeding programs, improving yield, resilience, and sustainability. It also lays the groundwork for advanced molecular breeding techniques like marker-assisted selection and genomic studies, while offering insights into geographic adaptability for varied agro-climatic zones. Additionally, the study emphasizes the preservation of indigenous maize germplasm, which hold unique traits modern crops may lack, and paves the way for future genetic research into heritability and trait exploration. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?****(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | To align the body of the paper with the abstract, it would be helpful to modify the title. I suggest the following title for the work: "Morphological Characterization and Phenotypic Variation in Maize Landrace Accessions from South Sudan." |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | The morphological variation is influenced by weather conditions, so to support the findings on field morphological variation and generate more concrete and valid information, it would be beneficial to include future research focused on genotyping and SNP variations. So good to indicate this in the abstract part. |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.**  | Conducting the study in South Korea may limit the direct applicability of the findings to the environmental conditions in South Sudan without further validation. Therefore, it is essential to recommend additional evaluation of South Sudan's growing environment in the conclusion. Additionally, the findings of this study present significant opportunities for future research and practical applications. To enhance the utility of this work for genome-wide association studies (GWAS), it would be beneficial to incorporate more maize accessions, particularly from diverse sources such as South Sudan or the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). Including over 200 accessions would be ideal for GWAS, providing a robust genetic resource for uncovering important traits and facilitating advancements in maize improvement efforts. This suggestion would be a valuable addition to the conclusion. |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.****-** | **Phenotypic Diversity for Morphological and Agronomic Traits in Traditional Ethiopian Highland Maize Accessions**: This study evaluated 180 maize accessions for agro-morphological traits, revealing significant variation in traits like days to tasseling, plant height, and kernel rows. I would suggest the author includes this work as reference in his citation. Beyene, T., Botha, A. M., & Myburg, A. A. (2005). Phenotypic diversity for morphological and agronomic traits in traditional Ethiopian highland maize accessions. *South African Journal of Plant and Soil*, *22*(2), 100–105. https://doi.org/10.1080/02571862.2005.10634689 |  |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | Very good and/or satisfactory  |  |
| Optional/General comments |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **PART 2:**  |
|  | Reviewer’s comment | Author’s comment *(if agreed with the reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?**  | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)* |  |

**Reviewers:**

**Amare Seyoum Hailessilase, United States**